

Welcome to the first SERI-InfoMail. From today on SERI will publish a monthly newsletter.

You are receiving this InfoMail because you indicated an interest in SERI's activities.

The SERI-Team wishes you a pleasant reading and we hope you'll find some topics of interest in our InfoMail.

Table of contents:

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Today with news about what is SERI and ITS intention, some information about the SERI's projects, new books, interesting links, information about what's going on in VIENNA in the next weeks.

SERI-News: General news from SERI and SERI members

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SERI is the first "virtual" research institute with associated researchers all over Europe. If you want to get more detailed information on the Institute and its members please visit our web-site: <http://www.seri.at> .

The Sustainable Europe Research Institute, together with a supporting legal association, exists since September 1999 according to Austrian Law. The headquarters have been established in Vienna. We would like to invite you to participate in this undertaking.

The Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) is a Pan-European think tank aiming to explore sustainable development options for European societies. SERI's research agenda and methodology is based on previous work carried out by Friends of the Earth and the Wuppertal Institute. The Institute aims to develop the concept of environmental space and shows ways to substantially reduce the resource through-put of modern industrial societies. The research carried out by members of SERI supports the dialogue within European civil society. It specifically aims to further develop the exchange of ideas between environmental citizens organisations, governments, trade unions and industry.

The scientific dialogue SERI aims to engender is supported by its web page and this newsletter, conferences, meetings as well as publications.

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Project-Overview: News from our projects, our other work and new research fields

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For our project on traffic congestion we produced a first draft of the chapter, which can be downloaded [soon] in pdf-format from www.seri.at/congestion.htm .

For the Austrian ministry of the environment SERI is working on the integration of environmental provisions in EU policies (transport, Single Market, energy).

The Sustainability Website will provide information on the basic principles for a sustainable Europe, such as environmental space, equity principle, resource use reduction etc. and provide links to important organisations and documents dealing with sustainability. The project is sponsored by the Heinrich-Bll-Foundation, Friends of the Earth Europe and SERI. SERI provides scientific support for the website. See

<http://www.foeeurope.org/campaigns/susteurope/index.htm>

In a project for the Italian agency ENEA we are developing suggestions for the Italian ministry of the environment that is about to update its National Sustainable Development Plan.

For the German Heinrich-Boell-Foundation SERI is editing a book which is the outcome of their "Beyond Growth" conference.

For detailed information's about SERI's projects please surf to: www.seri.at/seriengprojects.htm .

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Friends: Seri and ... (News about co-operation and partnerships)

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SERI would like to invite young researchers intending to apply for Marie Curie Fellowships to work with SERI or members of the SERI network in other parts of Europe. See www.cordis.lu/improving/src/hp_mcf.htm for details.

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Selected publications: Book reviews and announcements from SERI members and related writers and publishers.

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Wolfgang Sachs is pleased to announce the publication of his new book PLANET DIALECTICS by Zed Books, London. Please find the communication from the publisher below. Wolfgang hopes that some of the book's essays will be insightful and pleasurable reading for both scholars and activists in environment and development.

NEW FROM ZED
TITLE: **Planet Dialectics - Explorations in Environment and Development**
AUTHOR: Wolfgang Sachs, Wuppertal Institute

ISBN/PRICE: 1 85649 700 3 hardcover GBP45.00/US\$69.95

1 85649 701 1 paperback GBP15.95/US\$25.00

FEATURES: Notes/Bibliography/Index/240pp

LIBRARY CATEGORIES: Development/Environment

KEY POINTS

- The first collection of the most important writings of one of Zed's best-known authors
- Essential reading for students of development & cultural studies, environmentalists and activists

New paper by SERI members:

J. Spangenberg, F. Hinterberger, S. Moll, and H. Schuetz (1999):

Material flow analysis, TMR and the MIPS concept:

A contribution to the development of indicators for measuring changes in consumption and production patterns. IJSD, Vol.2, No 4, pp. 491-505

It is not the scarcity of resources that constitutes environmental problems, but their use, the physical throughput of our economies. Material flows are a proxy for the totality of the unspecific environmental risks from human activities. As a strategic goal, an increase of the life-cycle-wide resource productivity by a factor 10 is suggested, including the materials bought and sold and the not-valued materials: we have to take into account the product itself and the "ecological rucksack". Material flows are best measured at the input side of the economy, where their number as well as the number of entry gates is limited. Thus here regulation and economic incentives can work more efficiently and less bureaucratically than today. The material input per unit of products and services can be expressed by MIPS, the material input per unit of service, and TMR, the total material requirement on the macro level, an important element in physical input-output tables.

Key words: ecological rucksack, factor 10, material flows, MIPS, TMR, unspecific environmental risk.

For more information about these and other publications please visit:

www.seri.at/seriengpublic.htm .

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Links + Other: News about other activities, hints and advice on dates, workshops etc..

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An important event for information exchange could be the conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics, (along before or after) which we could organize some get-together, <http://www.wu-wien.ac.at/esee2000>.

Please visit the *Internet-Newspaper* of the Eco-Social-forum Vienna at: www.oesfo.at/warum.nicht). Homepage: www.oesfo.at/wien .

For other interesting links click below:
<http://www.seri.at/serienglinks.htm>

STUDENT-EVENTS

Advice for the 8. OFW-Symposium in Cologne on the 20th and 21st of March.
Topic is:
Kapitalismus im 21. Jahrhundert – Wege zur ökologischen und sozialen Nachhaltigkeit.
For details click www.ofw.de .

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GOING ON IN VIENNA:

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Fritz Hinterberger invites to monthly "evenings on ecological economic policy" at the Vienna office, Schwarzspanierstr. 4/7, A-1090 Wien.
These evenings are ment as informal lectures with much room for discussing the topic as well as general SERI issues. The next events will feature:

24.2. Suhita Osorio-Peters (ZEW, Mannheim):
Theorie der Regulation und ihre Anwendung in der Analyse von Umweltproblemen.

16.3. Marcus Stewen (Universität Mainz):
Inputorientierte Umweltpolitik – Von der Idee zur Umsetzung.

For participation-details please contact Fritz Hinterberger at fritz@seri.at.

How to find us:

If you arrive by train (or by airport bus) at Wien Westbahnhof, take tram No. 5 to "Lange Gasse". From there you have to walk down Alser Straße to a park on the left. Just cross this park an you will reach Schwarzspanierstraße. House number 4 is on the right.

For a map of Vienna surf to www.seri.at/seriengstart.htm and click "how to find us." On the map you find the described way as a green line. At the right end of the line is our location (Schwarzspanierstr. 4/7). It is 5 minutes from the tram and about 20-30 minutes from Westbahnhof. From other parts of the city you may also take trams 37,38,40,41 from subway (U-Bahn) U-2 stop "Schottentor" to Schwarzspanierstraße (1st stop). Form there it is again a 5 minutes walk.

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These were our messages and news for this month. Please don't hesitate to contact us for detailed information on our projects and for possibilities in co-operation and partnership. It's a challenge to start an interactive dialogue of exchanging experiences. You are all invited to participate in this process.

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Please contribute to our FORUM: "What do we expect from a Sustainable Europe Research Institute?" at: <http://www.seri.at/forum/index.html> .

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surf to: www.seri.at

mail to: info@seri.at

NOTICE: You are receiving this InfoMail because you indicated an interest in SERI's activities.

Please tell friends and colleagues about SERI and its work. Anyone can sign up the InfoMail for a free subscription.

If you have any suggestions to improve our InfoMail please let us know.

If you would prefer not to receive our InfoMail, please send an E-Mail with the subject unsubscribe to info@seri.at.

Have a nice day – your SERI-Team.

SERI-Infomail 01/2000

Distributed by Jürgen Schäfer

Managing Editor, SERI-Newsletter

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