

## **Instruments for supporting sustainable environmental planning**

Session to EnviroInfo 2008

Mariele Evers

Managing environment is a complex issue. The integration of socio-economic and participation aspects makes it even more challenging. These integrated approaches are more and more required to meet goals of sustainable development which include not only a coherent mid- and long-term integration of diverse work fields and demands but also integration of participation with stakeholders and the general public. Developing and coordinating measures and identifying fields of problems or synergies for coherent planning are key issues to be done. This is again more and more important – at least for certain regions - to implement adaptation strategies against dramatic land use changes and climate change impacts such as water shortage or increasing of flood risk.

Recently more and more legally instruments on the European level such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Strategic Impact Assessment (SIA) or the adopted Flood Risk Management Directive and other more are underlining these requirements.

The question is now how can (computer based) instruments help to cope with this challenge of complex planning and management and decision making processes.

The goal of this workshop is to bring together some key researchers, developers and potential end-users of computer based planning support systems (PSS) for discussion and exchange of experiences. The main objectives of the workshop are:

- (1) To demonstrate some applications of the PSS technology in spatial and environmental planning and management
- (2) To provide an overview of requirements of planning support systems and discuss the state-of-the-art
- (3) Show good practise examples and exchange experiences in this field with the implementation and operation of to identify possible standards which can be recommended