Linking Impact Assessment Instruments with Sustainability Expertise

LIAISE toolbox

Policy relevant Knowledge for

Impact Assessment

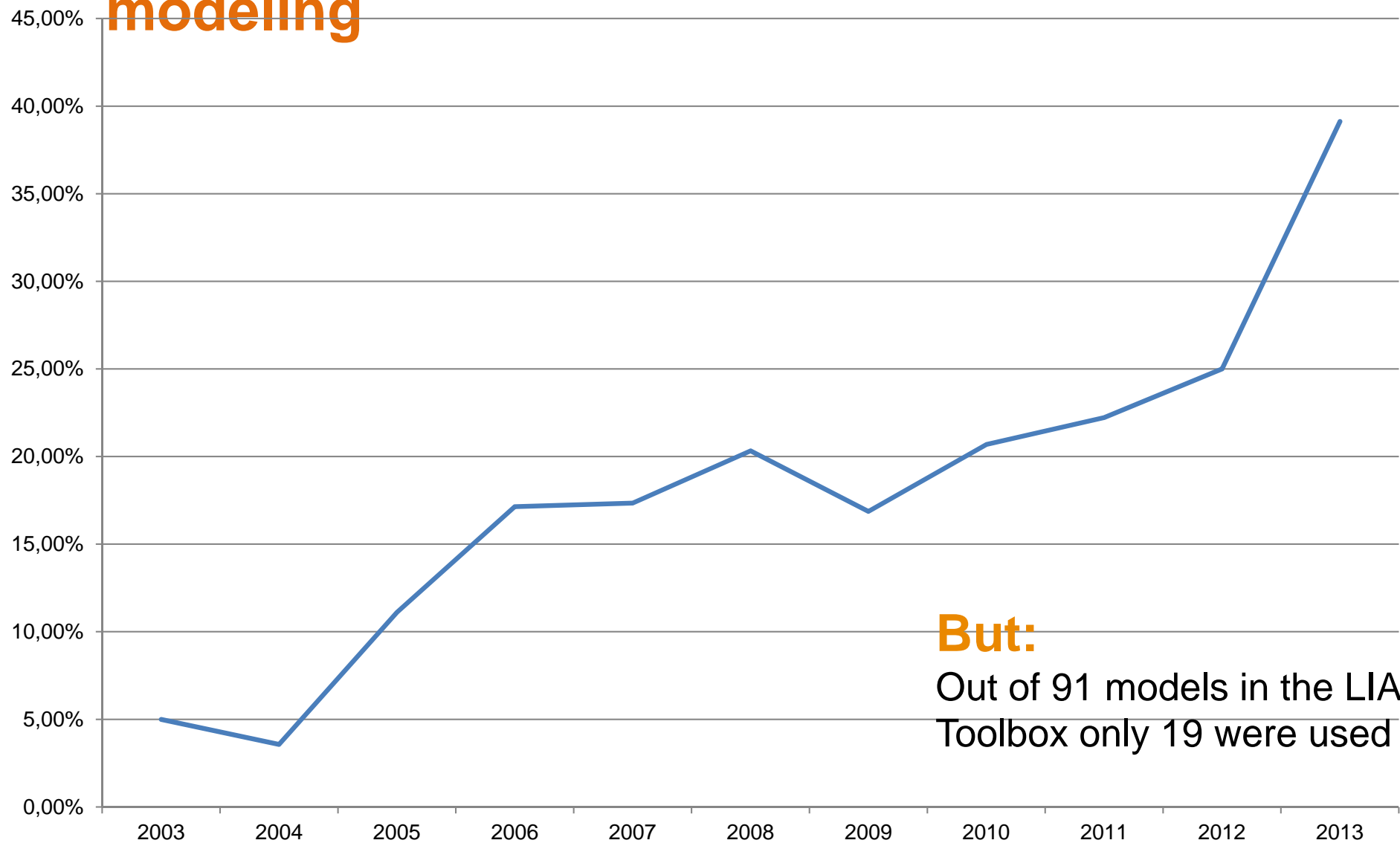# Background: Impact Assessment and LIAISE

- Impact Assessment of planned policies on economic, social and environmental aspects became a **standard requirement** of policy making in OECD countries, the EU, and beyond: **Evidence is core in policy making**.
- Requires **integrated, interdisciplinary knowledge**, and in particular **modelling**
- Large **investments by funders and researchers** in policy relevant/SD/IA related research over the past decade
- But: **only small parts** developed in (academic) IA research **are actually applied** in policy impact assessment
⇒ The **mission** of the Network of Excellence **LIAISE**:
    - ⇒ **Improving relevancy and usability** of IA related knowledge
    - ⇒ Better **accessibility of knowledge**

By means of
- Analysing and better understanding of user requirements
- Improving the practice of modelling
- Permanent dialogue between practitioners and researchers
- Developing a shared research agenda
- Training, dissemination, publication, conferences…
- **Developing a Toolbox**

Share of EU IAs (total ~800) with reported modeling

But:

Out of 91 models in the LIAISE Toolbox only 19 were used in IA

How are (interdisciplinary) models described?

Currently:

- Not described at all: Lack of documentation
- Technical descriptions: understanding requires disciplinary skills
- Focus on methods less on possible applications and results
- Lack of integration across disciplines

The LIAISE approach:

$\Rightarrow$ Development of a **standard to describe models**: The Reference Model

$\Rightarrow$ Describing knowledge in the **context of IA** to ensure relevancy of knowledge

Toolbox: http://beta.liaise-toolbox.eu

The toolbox contains **descriptions of** different types of **IA knowledge** The toolbox serves for two different purposes:

- **Library** of models, methods, good practices, experts: Different sources of knowledge are described in the context of IA and can be queried using keywords from the domain of policy Impact assessment.

- A **community platform** to collaborate in the field of Impact Assessment: you are invited to share your knowledge in the field of Impact Assessment for Sustainable development: become an expert, a lead editor or upload your publication. Furthermore, the toolbox can be used by groups to jointly work on IA and related projects

jf2   müsste diese Folie nicht vor Folie 5, bzw. auch weiter an den Anfang der Präsentation?

Johanna Ferretti; 05-04-2013

Types of Knowledge and Taxonomies in the Tbx

Models
- Impact Areas
- Economic Sectors
- Spatial Coverage
- Policy Areas
- Policy Instruments
- Countries
- IPR
- Time Horizon

~ 90

Experts
- Impact Areas
- Policy Areas
- Disciplines
- IA Methods
- Countries

~ 45

IA Practices
- Impact Areas
- IA Methods
- IA Activities
- Policy Instruments
- Policy Areas
- Description
- Economic Sectors
- Countries

~ 450

IA Activities
- IA Methods
- IA Practices

~ 50

IA Methods
- IA Activity
- IA Practices

~ 25

Impact Areas
- Models
- Experts
- Practices

~ 170

Sources of Knowledge

- **Previous projects and existing data**: Sustainability A Test, IQ Tools, EEA Model Inventory, literature reviews, review of guidelines, EC good practice database

- **Modellers and experts**: can add and update model descriptions, expert profiles and practices (e.g. model application, publications)

- **Lead editor**: take over responsibilty for certain sections of the toolbox, review and update content, encourage other experts in their domain to contribute
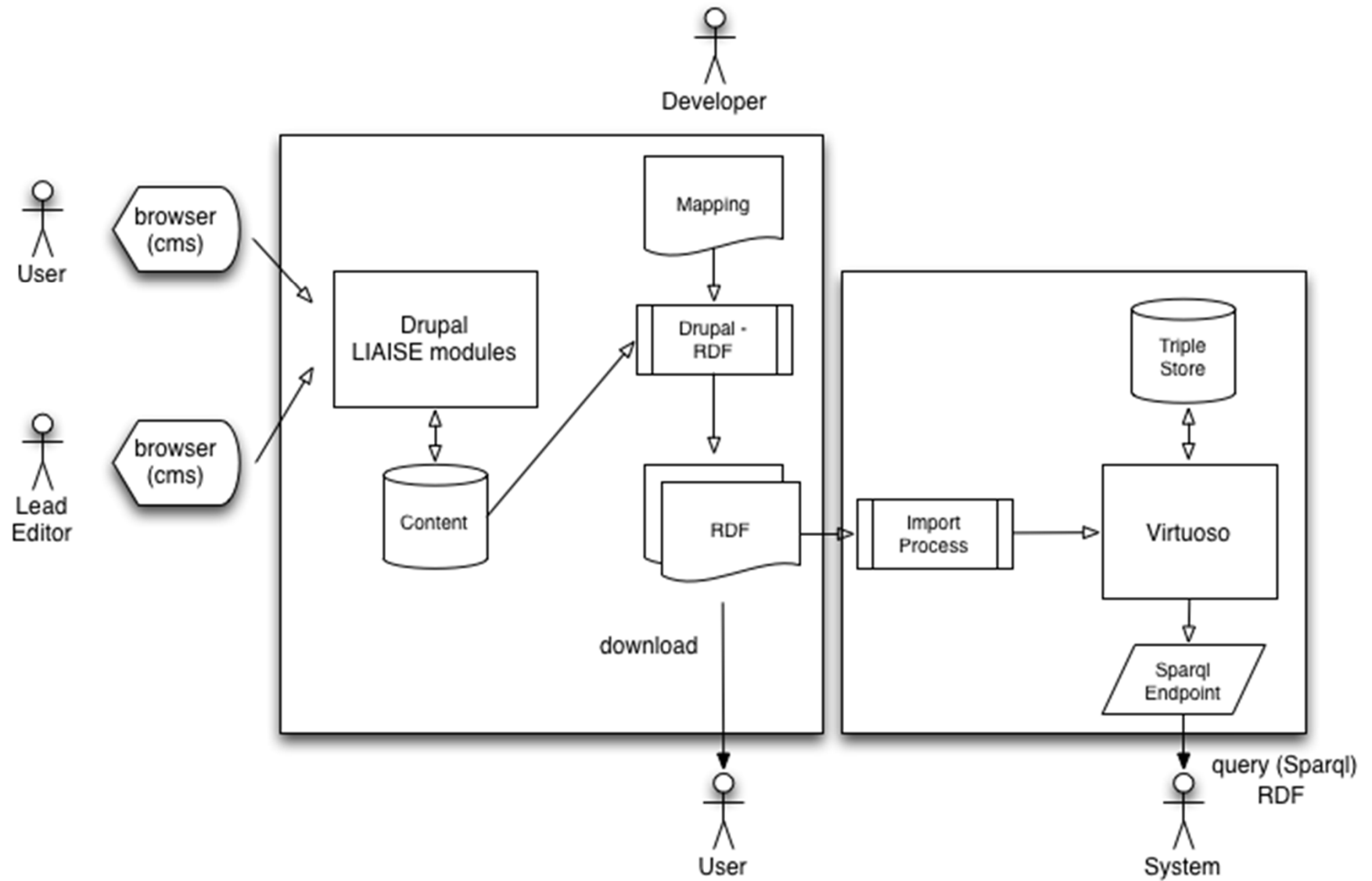
Integration of machine readable data: Towards LIAISE Toolbox Linked Data

- To extend the reach of the Toolbox in the Semantic Web and to ensure future accessibility it is desirable to (1) publish the content as Linked (Open) Data (LOD), and (2) consume other LOD as references and new Toolbox content.

- The general idea is to make the Toolbox content available as RDF, accessible through a SPARQL Endpoint. This is the key to connect it to the Semantic Web, to further usage in LIAISE back office applications, and to ensure future usage.

- In laymen terms: Integration of the toolbox in the **web of data**:
  - linked data exchange: exporting the taxonomies and data via rdf
  - importing meta data from other data provider: e.g. data sets, other model inventories, libaries, etc.

- Search will return: e.g. related datasets or compatible models

Using the toolbox

- Searching Models, experts and practices via facetted search
- Searching for background information in methods and impact areas
- Adding and updating content as expert or modeller: Describe your knowledge in the context of IA for SD
- Adding and updating content as lead editor: Wiki pages
- Collaborative writing of IA in groups

Current developments:
- design of user interface
- Implementation of semantic web technologies
- Improvement of group functionalities
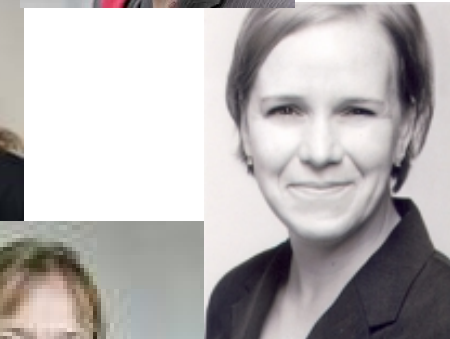- Recruitment of lead editior
- Marketing

Future research needs

- **Linking different types of knowledge**: Evidence base of policies requires comprehensive, interdisciplinary, forward looking knowledge – integration from very different disciplines and fields of expertise is required. Which knowledge, and in particular which models are compatible?

- **Contextualisation of knowledge**: Ensuring relevancy of research requires an understanding of the context of possible application and vice versa an understanding of the potentials of research. How to increase the literacy of researcher and practitioners?

- **Integration in the web of data**: many different standards for meta data and ontologies are currently under development – how to ensure compatibility and appropriate representation of contexts?

The LIAISE Toolbox core Team

Thomas Hüsing (FUB, developer)
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Become part of the team

- As expert: http://beta.liaise-toolbox.eu/node/add/expert

- With your model: http://beta.liaise-toolbox.eu/node/add/model

- With your project or publication: http://beta.liaise-toolbox.eu/node/add/practice

- As lead editor for a method or an impact area: http://beta.liaise-toolbox.eu/content/list-lead-editors contact liaise@zedat.fu-berlin.de

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jf1   links funktionieren nur, wenn man eingeloggt ist
           Johanna Ferretti; 05-04-2013

Thanks for your attention

For additional information, assistance to use the toolbox and feedback please contact liaise@zedat.fu-berlin.de