

Welcome to the CEECEC Newsletter. CEECEC (Civil Society Engagement with ECological ECOnomics) is a European Commission FP7 funded project co-ordinated by the Universitat Autònoma Barcelona (ICTA-UAB) that aims to enable Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to engage in and lead collaborative research with ecological economists. Here's a summary of what we've been up to:



1. CEECEC's VODO meets with UMICORE CEO on Ecological Debt in Hoboken

On September 15, 2009 Thomas Leysen, CEO of UMICORE, received a delegation from VODO (Flemish Platform on Sustainable Development) and ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles) to discuss a CEECEC case study that has calculated the ecological debt of UPMR (Umicore Precious Metals Refining- the largest precious metals recycling unit in the world) for 122 years of lead, arsenic and cadmium emissions. They talked about the use of the concept of ecological debt on the scale of a single industrial production unit as well as about the details of the study on UPMR. Both VODO and UPMR agreed to continue dialogue on the issues raised by the study, which outlines the history and situation of the conflict between local communities and UPMR, explains the concept of ecological debt and describes the methodology used for calculating that debt. The recommendations to the company, to the chemical industry in general and to the government will be the starting point for a debate that VODO intends to initiate, and the basis of work on an academic publication.

2. Updates on CEECEC'S TAV Turin-Lyon Case Study

On 31 July 2009, the Minister of Transport announced that geological drilling will recommence in autumn in order to begin the operative phase of the works by March 2010. The Minister has tried to downplay the conflict saying that "force ...should be used only to face illegal behaviours. A mayor declaring his opposition to a project is not enough". The Mayors of San Didero, Sant'Ambrogio and Mattie are opposing the project.

3. Legambiente Presents Ecomafia Report 2009

Legambiente, an Italian environmental NGO involved in the Campania waste crisis with CEECEC partner ASUD, has just published its annual Ecomafia Report. The panorama depicted by this report is worrying: the amount of "disappeared" waste, and waste and supposedly "treated" by the illegal mafia market amounted to 31 million tonnes (t) of hazardous waste in 2008 compared to 19.1 million t in 2005, a quantity sufficient to construct a pyramid 3 hectares wide and 3100 meters high. The business of illegal waste treatment in 2008 was worth 7 billion €, and the cost of various waste emergencies to public administrations in the country amounted to 1.8 billion €. The report also points out that there were 25 776 environmental crimes in Italy in 2008. This equals roughly 71 per day or 3 every hour, half of them in the four mafia-dominated regions of Campania, Calabria, Sicilia and Puglia.

4. Finalisation of Case Studies for Online Interactive Ecological Economics Course

CEECEC is in the final stages of drafting CSO partners' case studies of environmental conflicts in collaboration with CEECEC researchers. Case studies have been posted online for public viewing on the project website . These case studies will form the basis of the forthcoming CEECEC Online Interactive Ecological Economics Course. Anyone interested in participating in the pilot of this course for teaching/learning ecological economics through CSO case studies is welcome to contact Hali Healy at news@ceecec.net .

5. Acción Ecológica Legal Status Completely Restored

CEECEC partner Accion Ecologica has finally had its legal status completely restored on 31 August 2009. On May 11, 2009 following an outpouring of protest and condemnation from around the world, the Ecuadorean Ministry of Health temporarily reinstated the organization's legal status, annulling the ruling which had cancelled its registration as of March 18 2009.

[Read more here.](#)

6. CEECEC director Joan Martinez Alier addresses the Peruvian Centre for Social Studies (CEPES) in Lima Peru

In his talk at CEPES (in [Spanish](#)), Joan Martinez Alier explains how the environmentalism of the poor and the movement for environmental justice is alive and advancing in Latin America and how increasing ecological conflicts in the region are based on the growing social metabolism of the world's economy which requires ever more inputs of materials and energy. As the commodity frontiers of extraction expand, local peoples and environmentalists are resisting incursions into their territories using their own languages of valuation.

7. CEECEC partner Endemit on the Airwaves

Endemit's Biljana Macura was interviewed on Thursday August 27th on the "Korak ka Nauci" ("A step towards science") programme, on Belgrade 1 Radio Station (Serbia's national radio & television service). During the interview she spoke about the CEECEC project (including the report produced by Endemit on Environmental Conflicts and Issues in South-Eastern Europe – see below) and the significance of Endemit's work with ecological economics for improving the living standards of local communities in the Djerdap National park who rely on local resources and ethno-tourism.

8. Watch Hiware Bazar Millionaires by CEECEC's Leah Temper

[Hiware Bazar Millionaires](#) follows CEECEC's Supriya Singh (CSE), chronicling the successful use of local knowledge and rural employment funds (under the government's NREGA scheme) in a rural village in Maharashtra, India to enhance water harvesting and combat poverty.

9. CEECEC Workshop at ESEE Biennial Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia July 2009

Highlights of the workshop included guests from Slovenian CSOs (Dark-sky Slovenia and Focus on Sustainable Development) who came to discuss conflicts they are working on and how the application of ecological economics tools and methods might benefit their work. Read the [full article](#).

10. CEECEC at 'Ecological Economics and the Crisis', Rome, Italy, June 2009

The day-long conference 'Ecological Economics and the Crisis' took place in the Provincial Palace of Rome and featured presentations by CEECEC's Joan Martinez Alier (UAB), Leah Temper (UAB), Simron Jit Singh (IFF), Tom Bauler (ULB), Walter Pengue (UBA) and Supriya Singh (CSE) and Omar Bonilla (Accion Ecologica) and radical speeches from local activists and administrative authorities. [The full article](#) contains a link to excellent video coverage of the event by PressTV, as well as coverage of another CEECEC event, "The Misery of Capital" at the Institute for Philosophic Studies in Naples.

11. CEECEC Project Publishes Report on Environmental Conflicts and Issues in South-Eastern Europe

This report by CEECEC partner Endemit presents a unique environmental snapshot of South Eastern Europe (SEE) based on a synthesis of the latest international and national research within a framework of issues built on the concerns and activities of local CSOs. Specific CSO case studies presented within the report then form the basis of a detailed discussion of how the concepts, tools and methods of ecological economics can be applied to CSO work on environmental conflicts in SEE.

Download the report from [here](#):

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