



Newsletter March 2010

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 online Ecological Economics course now accepting applications

Running from **April 12, 2010 – July 02, 2010**, CEECEC will be piloting an online course on ecological economics, free of cost. This is based on case studies written by environmental NGOs in different countries. A selected number of students from around the globe, preferably from NGOs but also from public administration, universities, or any other profession will have the opportunity to participate. In total a commitment of **12 hours per week for 12 weeks** is required to complete the course. To read more look [here](#).

2. New Case Studies Online!

Three new case studies are online from: Endemit (Serbia) on Djerdap National Park; A Sud (Italy) on the Campania waste crisis; and from ICTA-UAB (Spain) on bio-fuel production in the Tana Delta, Kenya.

The CEECEC project now has a total of **12 case studies online!** Endemit produced [Local Communities and Management of Protected Areas in Serbia](#) to help foster community participation in decision making around the management of Djerdap National Park. A Sud wrote a case study on the [Waste Crisis in Campania](#), Italy, detailing the role of what is termed the "ecomafia" in the dumping of toxic waste in one of Italy's poorest regions. The third case study from the ICTA-UAB deals with issues of land grabbing for bio-fuels and export crops in the [Tana Delta in Kenya](#).

3. Success at London Degrowth Event, Jan 12 2009

Rethinking Economic Growth: Toward an International Degrowth Network

On January 12 2010, the King's Cross Hub in London was packed to capacity with a crowd that braved some of the UK's worst winter weather to attend *Degrowth in London: Toward an International Degrowth Network*. Find the link to the full article, presentations and related blogs [here](#).

4. TAV case study (A Sud) update: Italian police brutally beat peaceful demonstrators

CEECEC partner A Sud reports that on the 16th and 17th of February, Italian police attacked unarmed people, seriously injuring protestors demonstrating against the first drillings for a third tunnel through the Susa Valley, West of Turin. This is a conflict in which local and national civil society organisations are united with scientists and religious leaders in one of Italy's largest and longest running social movements (see A Sud's case study on the TAV [here](#)).

When the machines for the first test drills arrived on the 16th under massive police protection, people mobilised and started demonstrating. 'We said we wanted to go ahead peacefully toward the drilling site', says Lele Rizzo, but instead the police started hitting demonstrators, injuring and hospitalising a boy in a wheelchair.

According to the No TAV Committee, hundreds of armoured police and their vehicles escorted a new drilling machine into the area at 2 AM in the morning. The Committee calculated the costs for the state to deploy massive police forces for every drill, coming up with a very cautious figure of 3.84 million € to protect each drill in Susa for a period of 3½ weeks. The budget for protection is 6 million, but there are 91 drills planned. Locals are understandably asking themselves how much they should pay for the militarisation of their valley.

5. REDD case study (REBRAP) update: REDD at COP15

In mid-December, 2009 at the Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Change agreements (COP15) in Copenhagen, in the presence of a host of state officials and involved CSOs including CEECEC collaborators (see REBRAP's [REDD case study](#) online), the REDD+ program in Mato Grosso was granted state program status, the announcement serving as a platform for the state Governor's presentation. Despite

minimal advances at COP15 on other issues, efforts to develop a mix of instruments including payments for ecosystem services to avoid further tropical deforestation as part of the post-2012 climate arrangements continue to gain force. Mato Grosso as the largest global contributor to greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation, land use change, and burning stands to gain considerable attention and resources as a result. A global comparative study by the Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR - <http://www.forestsclimatechange.org/>) of the efficiency, efficacy, equity and other co-benefits of REDD+ initiatives in nine countries will include at least one Mato Grosso site.

[6. Joan Martinez Alier presents CEECEC at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in San Diego](#)

CEECEC's Joan Martinez Alier presented the CEECEC project at an event organised by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (the AAAS, the world's largest scientific society) in San Diego on Friday, February 19 at the San Diego Convention Center. The event entitled "Science Meets Society: Walking the Talk" was attended by a diverse array of leading scientists, engineers, educators, and policy-makers. To learn more about the event, click [here](#).

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