

Belgium

The Institute for Environmental Management and Land-use Planning (Institut de Gestion de l'Environnement et d'Aménagement du Territoire - IGEAT)

As part of Brussels University (ULB), the Institut de Gestion de l'Environnement et d'Aménagement du Territoire (IGEAT) is a large, multidisciplinary research institute, in which more than 60 researchers from various backgrounds (geography, environment, economy, tourism, transport, politics, land planning, sociology, etc.) work together. ULB-IGEAT has accumulated a fair amount of experience in the collection and harmonisation of data across Europe and has a particular expertise in data mining of large socio-economic datasets. It participates in many Belgian and European research projects, notably within the 7th framework programme and the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON). IGEAT has developed large networks in the field of territorial development, social and territorial cohesion across Europe. IGEAT is strongly involved in the ESPON programme dedicated to territorial development and cohesion in the European context. In this programme, IGEAT has coordinated and participated to diverse projects, notably related to cities. IGEAT has participated to numerous European projects with the DG Regio as well as in the FP7 programme. Since 2006, the Institute is a department of the Faculty of Sciences of the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Its priority areas of research are among other:

Territorial Development: The research conducted at IGEAT in this area aims at identifying the characteristics of different types of territory, at examining their organisation and understanding their functioning. Often these are seen from the perspective of operation, orientation and aid to decision-making by public or private actors, for instance as regards the location of economic activities, the restructuring of distribution or transport networks, and the impact of certain activities on the territory.

Land-use: IGEAT has at its disposal a wide range of expertise in the interpretation and understanding of spatio-temporal structures of territorial density under demographic pressure, both in Europe and in Africa (urban growth, migration of refugee populations, seaside tourism, etc.), based on teledetection data (aerial photographs and satellite images in high and very high resolution).

Landscape Studies: Several publications at IGEAT were devoted to the identification of landscapes, to the environmental and social processes that formed them, to the associated representations and to their management. Significant attention is also paid to the interpretation of landscape for both tourist and pedagogical purposes.

Tourism studies: delivers excellence in fundamental and applied research on the interactions between tourism, spatial and social dynamics in urban as well as in rural environments with a particular focus on stakeholder groups, consumer and user groups. Fundamental and applied research projects were funded by governmental agencies, national and international, private and public tourism organisations and structures. Moreover, staff members have a wide experience in the heritage management field through work for the UNWTO, ICOMOS, UNESCO at international level.

Topics

SC5-21b-2017:

Cultural heritage as a driver for sustainable growth (b) Heritage-led rural regeneration (IA)

Contact

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