

Exiopol: Computer science to save the European environment

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How to get economic growth and a healthy environment in Europe? The European Commission develops large scale policies on products, natural resources, production and consumption. But the problem is not simple. Economic actions can cause environmental damage and measures to improve the environment can cause economic damage. How to know the effects of policies? How to find a policy that does not cause more problems than it solves?

Exiopol (<http://www.feem-project.net/exiopol/>) is a European project to build systems to assist the making of these decisions. A large database of industrial activities and their emissions is the core of the system. The data are to be the input for calculations on the environmental impact of economic decisions and vice versa.

The system does not exist yet. The performance is unknown. The design is not yet ready. Some of the demands are as yet unclear or under discussion. At the same time, we are in a hurry. There is no time to waste and there is work to be done.

In all, 38 universities and centres of research from Europe, China and India are involved. We at the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML), Leiden University, are responsible for the design and implementation of the Exiopol system.

We are looking for students to help with the work. Robust ontologies have to be written. Estimates have to be made of the performance, even though the design is not yet ready. The design will have to be robust against future changes in the data model.

If you feel you can contribute and are looking for an internship, please take up contact with:

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