

## Call for Papers

# Sustainability and Decision Making

The conference topic looks at the sustainability of decisions related to ultra-long investments. An investment is defined as ultra-long if it causes consequences, which lie beyond the decision maker's planning horizon. Such situations may occur if planning is costly, if decision makers are irrational or if externalities exist which are not considered by the decision maker. As a consequence, there is a high potential for suboptimal decisions regarding the evaluation of ultra-long investments (ULLIs). This will be in particular the case in situations with many stakeholders, high uncertainty and long life cycles, which are typical for energy, mobility, and environmental investments. During the workshop we discuss quantitative and behavioral aspects separately and in combination. Potential topics are:

- Development of appropriate decision making methodologies for ULLIs,
- Quantitative (OR-based) planning methods for ULLIs,
- Analysis of time, risk and ambiguity preferences and their influence on different domains of sustainability (economic, environmental, societal),
- Behavioral aspects of decisions in ultra-long investments,
- Optimal design of contracts and incentives when setting up ULLIs,
- Internalization of externalities if decision makers' and stakeholders' preferences are divergent leading to intra- and inter-generational conflicts,
- Retrospective assessment of the sustainability of historical ultra-long investment decisions.

Submissions related to the topics mentioned above or which help to understand the economics of ultra-long investments from a different point of view will be considered. Complete papers will be preferred. If only an abstract is submitted, it has to consist of at least two pages, which describe the research contribution and the methodology chosen. Please use the pdf format and hand in one version with authors' details and one anonymous version to [Letmathe@controlling.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:Letmathe@controlling.rwth-aachen.de). Papers and abstracts must be in English.

Deadline for submission is **January 7, 2015**. Papers will be peer-reviewed. Accepted papers will be announced at the end of January.

A selection of accepted papers will be published in a special issue of the Journal of Business Economics/Zeitschrift für Betriebswirtschaft.

The workshop is organized by the EME research area at RWTH Aachen University and the GOR working group „Operations Research and Environmental Management“. The workshop will be held at RWTH Aachen University on **February 25-26, 2015** (get together on February 24, 2015).