"Dataflow visualisation: Communicating, planning and tracing the Integrated Environmental Assessment process."

“A picture says more than a thousand words”. An Integrated Environmental Assessment(IEA) is a complex process, requiring the combination of the knowledge of many people from many professions and organisations. Visualization of the assessment dataflow can provide a clear basis for communication, planning and quality of the IEA process. And, using a data flowchart as a visual entrance point to your information system, it is easy to drill down from the project overview to a specific dataset(including metadata).

In our paper, we will show how dataflow visualisation has been applied successfully for the fifth Environmental Outlook in the Netherlands (RIVM). We’ll speak about the advantages and disadvantages, what you need to do to get it working, and how to embed it in the project information infrastructure. And finally, about the web: The Internet brings new opportunities for workgroup cooperation in general and inter-organizational communication specifically. Dataflow visualization should be integrated as a component in an Integrated Assessment’s “Project Portal”.

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Ir. K. (Kit) Buurman
RIVM(Dutch Environmental Research Institute)- Office for Environmental Assessment

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Ms. S. (Sigi) Simons
University of Utrecht, department of Language Studies & Communication