

Strategy ISIE 2025-2035

Introduction

The International Society for Industrial Ecology (ISIE) is a scientific membership society focusing on *Advancing the science of circular, resource-efficient and sustainable socio-economic systems*.

ISIE now exists over 20 years. It sets here its strategy for the next decade. It is done in the form of a few figures and tables to ensure easy and broad communication to ISIE's membership and beyond. We refrain from extensive text.

ISIE is a membership driven organization with limited financial resources and is fortunate to have a very active membership. ISIE hosts a flagship journal published with Springer Nature, supported by active Editors-in-Chief and Associate Editors. We have many sections fostering sub-fields of IE. We have a vibrant community of PhD candidates. We have individuals trying to foster IE in regions where ISIE is under-represented, such as the Global South. We have people trying to provide educational material and 'data commons' online. In some cases, ISIE can provide modest support funding (e.g. via membership proposals, typically 5000 Euro per project). This strategic plan aims to provide guidance for such bottom-up initiatives and provides a framework to stimulate them.

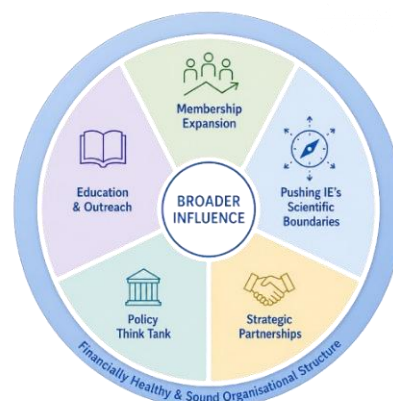
Strategic goals

ISIE is currently a medium-sized scientific society, with some 1200 members. In comparison, even relatively small countries like the Netherlands have statistical offices studying the financial functioning of the economy with 2000 employees.

ISIE's physical economic analyses are in many ways of equal societal and policy importance as work done by economists. These count in the tens of thousands globally and have huge policy impact. IE has traditionally focused on understanding and optimizing the resources use in socio-economic systems across different scales from factories, industrial parks, cities, to the globe, based on which policy makers can find ways to promoting resources efficiency and circularity, as well as supporting the realization of climate targets. Recently, IE studies also help see more and more that access to resources and interdependencies in global supply chains impacts the economic and sustainability performance of countries. Therefore, IE studies can also make major contributions in assessing resource criticality, economic systems resilience, and so on.

Against this background, ISIE wants to broaden its influence and visibility by

- 1) expanding the number of IE scientists/members;
- 2) pushing IE's scientific boundaries;
- 3) engaging in strategic partnerships;
- 4) showing its societal/policy relevance ('policy think tank function');
- 5) facilitating education and outreach programs



This has to be supported by:

- 6) a financially healthy and sound organizational structure

Operationalisation and realization of strategic goals

The Table attached makes the strategic goals more concrete. It gives an overview of existing activities to be continued, new priority activities, and suggested other priorities, including how we execute them. We summarize them below, with any relevant deadline between brackets. Actions with * may be financially supported by ISIE upon approval of the Board.

A: Expanding membership

1. **We continue with the existing successful conference structure:** the biennial global conference in uneven years, the bi-annual Gordon Research Conference in even years (both typically in June/July), and the annual IE-day virtual conference (November).
2. **For even years, we encourage structural organization of ISIE workshops/conferences related to sections or regions** (like now already done by the Socio-Economic Metabolism section and like in the past was occasionally done for the Asia-Pacific or Latin America regions). We rely on members initiating such meetings. They will be supported by the ISIE Executive Team, and possibly via a guarantee fund*. We strive for one additional sectoral/regional conference/workshop series every 2 years. Latin America, Africa, India and SE Asia are priority regions.
3. Following the former point, ISIE will encourage **setting up formal regional chapters** in regions with sufficient levels of membership
4. The Executive Team **sets up an ISIE alumni network** via e.g. LinkedIn to understand needs of past members and use this to encourage re-registering as ISIE member. With PhDs the largest member group, we work on this with a.o. the PhD section (2026.10).

B: Pushing scientific boundaries

1. ISIE **sections** are encouraged to identify and **develop an overview of critical research directions** to keep the IE field vibrant and at the forefront.
2. After the successful transition of JIE from Wiley to Springer Nature per 1-1-2026, the **JIE editorial board** will develop a strategy for **user friendly handling of manuscripts, enhance JIE's impact factor, and raise the number of papers published** (continuously).
3. ISIE will set up a **Senior support committee to assist young and mid-career researchers in applying for prestigious personal grants** (2026.10).
4. ISIE will encourage members to donate and provide limited funding* for **expanding an open source 'Industrial Ecology Data Commons'***
5. ISIE will encourage **setting up new sections** in IE-relevant frontiers with sufficient levels of membership

C: Strategic partnerships

1. **ISIE sections / chapters** and conference organisers are encouraged to **actively pursue engagement of industry, NGO and policy stakeholders** at events.
2. In relation to B.1, **ISIE sections** are encouraged to focus on **research challenges relevant for industry, NGO and policy stakeholders**

D: Policy think tank

1. **ISIE sections** and the (to be established) **Senior support committee** are encouraged to **develop position papers and policy statements** to influence key policy debates (with some financial support for editing/layout) *
2. The (to be established) **Senior support board** next to individual members are encouraged to **participate in high-level platforms** and strengthen **connections with formal institutions** (e.g. IMF, OECD, EU DG JRC, UNEP etc.)

E: Education and outreach

1. The ISIE Education committee will **collect MOOCs and other virtual courses on IE tools and case studies** and make them available on the IS4IE website [\(2026.12\)](#)
2. ISIE will promote **Summer and Winter schools for PhDs** and similar organised by members via its website, mailings, and allowing to add an ISIE label on advertising materials, after approval of the Executive Team (continuous).
3. In exceptional cases, ISIE may support / advise on the development of new IE MSc and BSc programs via volunteer input of senior members

F: Financially healthy and sound organisational structure

1. The Executive Team and Board will **consolidate the secure banking arrangements and solid financial position** ISIE has realised in the last years.
2. The Executive Team and Board will **professionalise contracting service suppliers** in view of legal requirements, if need be, by engaging with an external bookkeeper [\(2026.10\)](#).
3. The Board in consultation with the Executive Team will decide on **expansion of support staff commensurable with growth of ISIE** (continuous).
4. The Executive Team and Board will propose a **more practical decision mechanism for membership initiatives**, that now need approval of 10% of the full membership [\(2026.10\)](#).

As approved by the ISIE Board on 11 December 2025, with minor edits to improve of lay-out and text errors.

GOAL	IMPLEMENTATION STEPS (<i>Italics: low priority</i>)	Description	Implementation lead	Deadline / time path	Indicators of success
A. Expanding the number of IE scientists/members	Continue the existing successful conference structure	Bi-annual global conference in uneven years, GRC in even years, annual IE day	Executive Team, Conference organisers		Doubling or tripling membership by 2030
	Organize structurally workshops/conferences related to sections or in regions (even years)	Priority regions: Latin America, Africa, India, SE Asia	Stimulate sections and members in such regions		Increase in membership from targeted regions
	Set up formal regional chapters		Stimulate and support members of such regions		30% of the PhD members retain membership despite moving out of academia
	Set up an IE alumni network	E.g. as a LinkedIn group	Executive Team, PhD section	2026.10	
	<i>Translate ISIE materials and website into multiple languages.</i>				
	<i>Highlight significant contributions and achievements of ISIE scientists through media and public relations.</i>		<i>Outreach manager</i>	<i>Continuous</i>	
B. Pushing scientific boundaries	Develop an overview of critical research directions	E.g. in the form of strategic research plans per section	ISIE sections		Every 3-5 years an IE review paper with research directions
	Enhance impact of JIE	User friendly manuscript handling, higher impact factor and number of publications	JIE Editorial board		JIE impact factor above 10; from first submission to first decision in 2 months and publication in 10 months
	Assist young and mid-career researchers in applying for prestigious personal grants	Assistance provided by a new senior support committee	ISIE Board decision on senior support committee	2026.10	1 ISIE member with a personal grant per year, growing to 5 in 2035
	Support expansion of the Industrial Ecology Data commons (open source data and tools)	Vision and structure provided by a new senior support committee	See above		
	Encourage setting up new sections in IE-relevant scientific frontiers with sufficient levels of membership		ISIE members		
C. Strategic Partnerships	Pursue engagement of industry, NGO and policy stakeholders at events.		Conference organisers, ISIE sections		
	Focus on research challenges relevant for industry, NGO and policy stakeholders	This point can related to the first bullet under B)	ISIE sections		

GOAL	IMPLEMENTATION STEPS (<i>Italics: low priority</i>)	Description	Implementation lead	Deadline / time path	INDICATORS
D. Policy Think-Tank	Develop position papers and policy statements		ISIE Sections, Executive Team and ISIE Board		Formal partnership with at least one global policy-making body
	Participate in high-level platforms and strengthen connections with formal institutions	E.g. with IMF, OECD, EU DG JRC, UNEP	Senior support committee, senior ISIE members, Executive Team, ISIE Board		
E. Facilitating education and outreach programs	Collect MOOCs and other virtual courses on IE tools and case studies		Education committee, building upon e.g. work of Freiburg University	2026.12	Fairly complete IE education program via links on website 2-3 PhD schools promoted per year
	Promote Summer and Winter schools for PhDs	ISIE members can ask ISIE for promotion of their schools	Executive Team, ISIE members		
	Advise on the development of new IE MSc and BSc programs	In exceptional cases	Ad-hoc support of senior members		
F. Financially healthy and sound organizational structure	Consolidate secure banking arrangements and financial structures.		Executive Team	Continuous	Budget breaks even on the long term Contractual arrangements have been checked by a professional
	Professionalize contracts with service suppliers in view of legal requirements	E.g. via engagement of a lawyer or bookkeeper	Executive Team	2026.10	
	Expand of support staff commensurable with growth of ISIE		Board in consultation with Executive Team	Continuous	
	Develop a more practical decision mechanism for membership initiatives.	Now: 10% of members need to be in support. Future: e.g. 75% votes casted in favor	Executive Team and board	2026.10	
	<i>Diversify funding/income</i>	<i>Investigate in relation with C the potential for corporate membership, donations, etc. via the ISIE Foundation</i>	<i>Executive Team and board</i>		

Note: some potential implementation steps were identified in discussion with Board and membership but not prioritized at this stage, given the potential significant effort and uncertain results (in italics)