



Sixth Framework Programme
Specific Targeted Research or Innovation Project
Contract No.: (IMP)3 513738 (SSPI)

(IMP)3

D1.5 Protocols Questionnaire

IMProving the **IMP**lementation of Environmental **IMP**act Assessment



Contents

0.	Introduction	3
1.	Question 1: Country of the stakeholders asked	6
2.	Question 2: Field of the stakeholders' expertise	7
3.	Question 3: Covered project types	9
4.	Question 4: Role in the EIA-process	11
5.	Question 5: Understanding of human health in EIA	13
6.	Question 6: Health aspects considered in EIAs	15
7.	Question 7: Barriers to the coverage of human health in EIAs	19
8.	Question 8: Measures to increase the awareness of the relation between human health impacts and environmental impacts	22
9.	Question 9: Influence of the assessment of human health impacts in EIA	24
10.	Question 10: Types of risk addressed in EIA	26
11.	Question 11: Stages of the assessment of risks usually applied to EIAs	29
12.	Question 12: Main barriers to more coverage of risk assessment in EIAs	31
13.	Question 13: Modification of project design through EIA	33
14.	Question 14: Satisfaction with selection and description of project types	34
15.	Question 15: Additional project types	41
16.	Question 16: Merging the two annexes of EIA-Directive	47
17.	Question 17: Good practices	53
18.	Question 18: General impression about quality and effectiveness of EIAs	54

0. INTRODUCTION

The European Union has enacted the EIA-Directive (Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Directive 97/11/EC) on the assessment of the environmental effects of those public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

This Directive has been in place for almost 20 years. The Commission evaluated its application and effectiveness and found various weaknesses as well as considerable variability in the Member States' implementation. As a result the Commission wanted a deeper evaluation of similar aspects of the EIA Directive.

The project IMProving the IMPlimentation of Environmental IMPact Assessment – (IMP)3 contributes to the requirements of the Commission. According to the main results of the Commission's report, (IMP)3 focuses on three main objectives:

- Objective A: a better incorporation of human health aspects into EIA
- Objective B: improved integration and increased consistency of risk assessments, regarding various sources of risks (natural hazards, accidents, sabotage)
- Objective C: a survey of thresholds according to Annex I such as a documentation of the relationship between the two Annexes and their practical implementation

Along these themes, research is taken into account at global, European and national level. (IMP)3 shall give an important input in the process of considering amendments to the EIA Directive in the fields health, risk assessment and thresholds, taking into account links to other Directives and to other assessment tools.

The work is organised along five work-packages (WPs):

- WP1 concentrates on the implementation of EIA, including the dissemination of a questionnaire to EIA-stakeholders in all 25 Member States and interviews with EIA-stakeholders carried out in 10 EU and 2 Non-EU countries.
- WP2 "Human health" focuses on Objective A: a better incorporation of human health aspects into EIA.
- WP3 "Risk assessment" concentrates on Objective B: improved integration and increased consistency of risk assessments, regarding various sources of risks (natural hazards, accidents, sabotage)
- WP4 "Project types / Criteria / Thresholds" focuses on Objective C: a survey of thresholds according to Annex I such as a documentation on the relationship between the two Annexes and their practical implementation
- In WP5, the results of WP1 to WP4 are merged into a final report.

Research on the improvement of the application of the environmental impact assessment needs a sufficient communication with EIA-stakeholders at several levels. Therefore, the technical approach of (IMP)3 is strongly focused on the interaction with EIA-stakeholders in close combination with the essential desk-research.

Therefore, a questionnaire was sent to different EIA-stakeholders in the EU-member states. The questionnaire helps to get a broad overview on the implementation of EIA in the EU. The different EIA-stakeholders taken into account are:

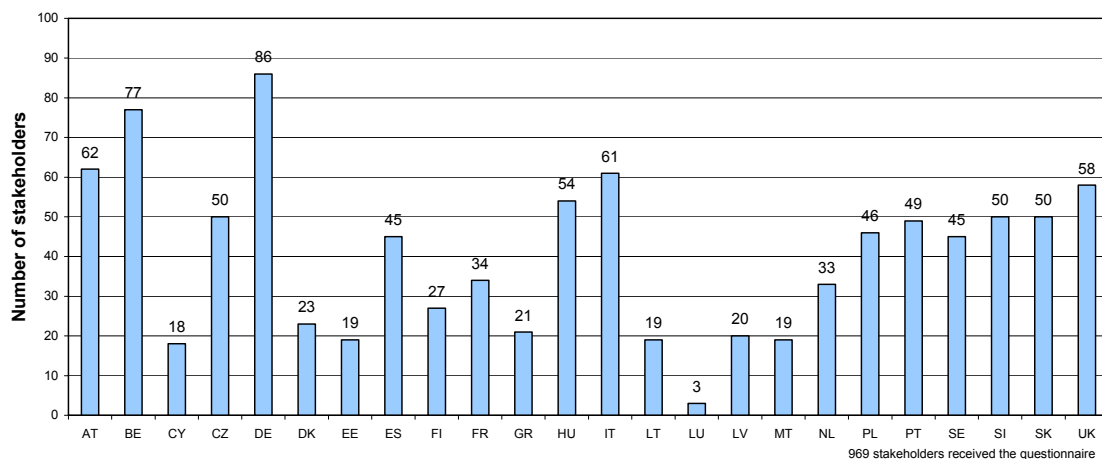
- national governmental organisations,
- regional bodies with competence in EIA-issues,
- NGO's,
- consultants,
- other EIA proponents as e.g. scientists

The questionnaire was developed by an interactive process with all partners of the (IMP)3-team. Based on the contributions of the work-package leaders of WP2, WP3 and WP4, a first draft was produced and intensely discussed at the interim project meeting.

The second draft played a pilot role and was sent to about 30 test persons. The results of the pilot draft were incorporated in a third draft that was discussed with a representative of DG Environment. Finally, a fourth draft was sent to all partners of the (IMP)3 team for final adjustments that led to the final version of the questionnaire.

The questionnaire was attached to a covering letter prepared in eleven languages (English, Czech, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Polish, Portuguese, Slovak, Spanish and Swedish).

STAKEHOLDERS RECEIVING THE QUESTIONNAIRE PER COUNTRY



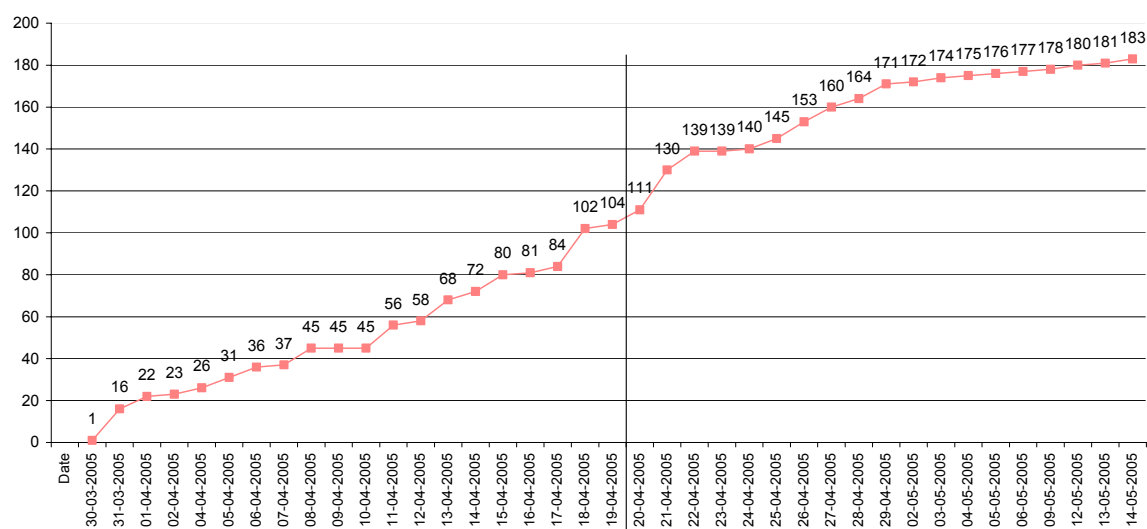
Based on a list of EIA-stakeholders, the questionnaire was disseminated via e-mail to 970 addresses. Within the first two weeks, 106 questionnaires were returned. After a second reminder

another 77 came back. So, all in all, the results are based on 183 completed questionnaires, bringing the return rate to 19%.

stakeholders contacted via questionnaires and stakeholders who answered

stakeholder type	stakeholders contacted		stakeholders answered	
	number	percent	number	percent
National government	128	13.2%	29	15.8%
NGO	144	14.8%	12	6.6%
Regional government	200	20.6%	29	15.8%
Business/private sector	226	23.3%	68	37.2%
Other	272	28.0%	45	24.6%
Total	970	100.0%	183	100.0%

NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES RETURNED



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1. QUESTION 1: COUNTRY OF THE STAKEHOLDERS ASKED

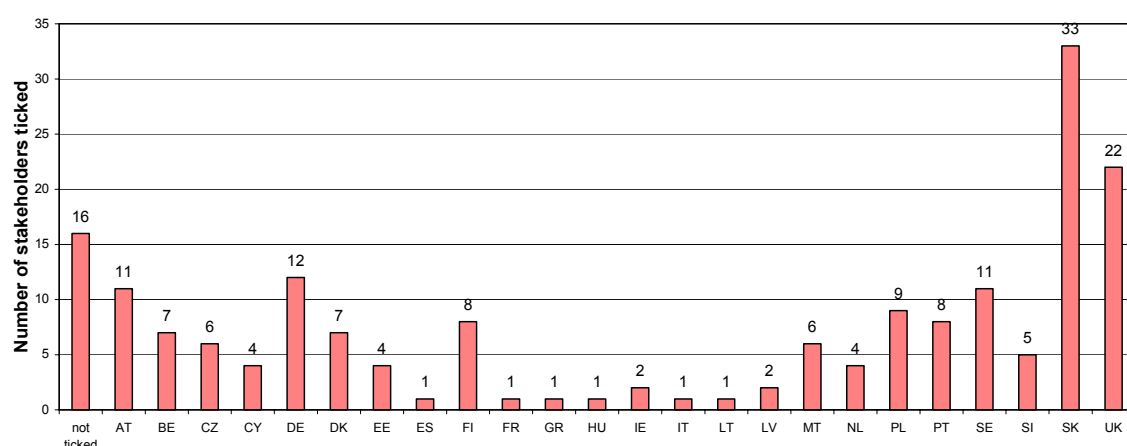
Wording of the question

1. In which country are you mainly working?

Results

COUNTRY OF THE STAKEHOLDERS ASKED

Question asked: In which country are you mainly working?



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
one answer was allowed

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List of country-abbreviations

Country		Country		Country	
AT	Austria	FR	France	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	GR	Greece	PL	Poland
CZ	Czechia	HU	Hungaria	PT	Portugal
CY	Cypres	IE	Ireland	SE	Sweden
DE	Germany	IT	Italy	SI	Slovenia
DK	Denmark	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
EE	Estonia	LU	Luxemburg	UK	United Kingdom
ES	Spain	LV	Latvia		
FI	Finland	MT	Malta		

2. QUESTION 2: FIELD OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' EXPERTISE

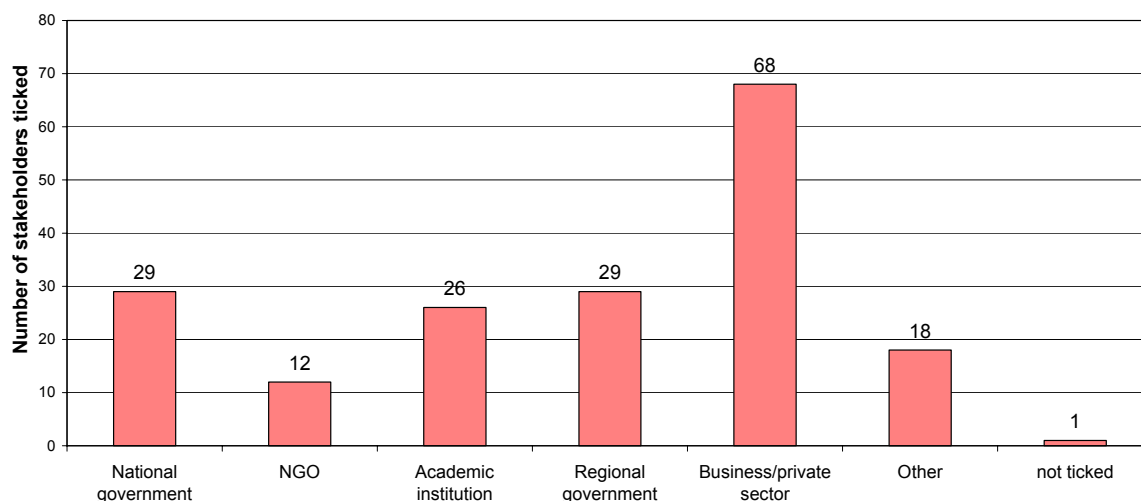
Wording of the question

2. In which field are you mainly working? (tick one of them)
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National government | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGO | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/private sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic institution | <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please give details |
- How many years of experience do you have in EIAs?

Results

FIELD OF EXPERTISE OF THE STAKEHOLDERS

Question asked: In which field are you mainly working? (tick one of them)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
one answer was allowed

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Additional Remarks:

- Dutch Commission for EIA, which has a legal task in advising on the guidelines for all EIS's and in reviewing EIS's.
- Environment Agency/Consultancy
- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Transport
- MoE county department
- National Park Authority
- National Public Health Authority
- Organisation established by the Ministry of the Environment
- Professional Body

- Provincial Environmental Ombudsman Salzburg
- Public Health / Environmental Health at national and regional level
- research
- researcher/consultant
- Slovak Environmental Agency
- state allowance organization

How many years of experience do you have in EIAs?

- ticked: 139
- min: 0
- max: 34
- average: 10
- median: 10

3. QUESTION 3: COVERED PROJECT TYPES

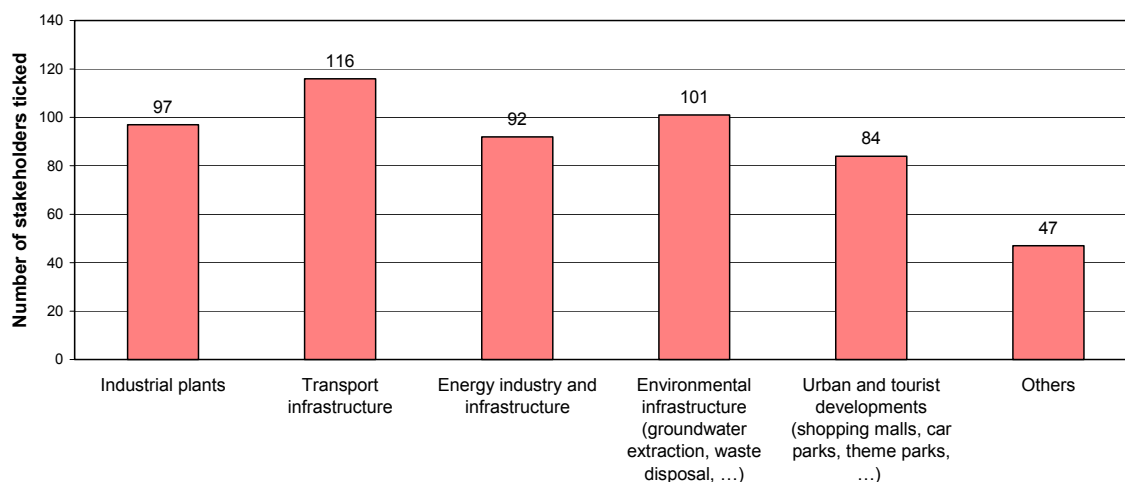
Wording of the question

3. Which project types/kind of EIAs are you mainly dealing with? (tick all that apply)
- ☐ Industrial plants
 - ☐ Transport infrastructure
 - ☐ Energy industry and infrastructure
 - ☐ Environmental infrastructure (groundwater extraction, waste disposal, ...)
 - ☐ Urban and tourist developments (shopping malls, car parks, theme parks, ...)
 - ☐ Others – please give details

Results

COVERED PROJECT TYPES

Question asked: Which project types/kind of EIAs are you mainly dealing with? (tick all that apply)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
more than one answers were allowed

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Additional Remarks:

- Industry or infrastructure where sources of ionizing radiation are used or produced
- Agriculture
- Airports
- All kinds of projects
- All projects, that may have a significant negative impact on the environment in accordance with act of SR of environmental impact assessment in harmony with EU directives.
- Energy: no nuclear power plants
- Extraction industry, chemical, pharmaceutical and petrochemical industry, industry of building substances, other industrial branches, infrastructure, water management, agriculture, food

industry, changes in the landscape use, purpose-design facilities for sport, recreation and tourism,

- Extraction of mineral resources, breeding of domestic animals
- Farms, fishery ponds
- Flood and Coastal Defences
- Flood Management – part of environmental infrastructure I suppose
- Flood risk, coastal erosion, navigation, fisheries and contaminated ground
- Food-making industry
- General knowledge of most project types
- HIA
- Housing developments
- I don't deal with projects
- I'm supervising and approving all kind of EIA and SEA documents (in county level)
- Informations about EIA proces
- Law
- Military Helicopter Base, re-organisation of land, final Disposal of spent nuclear fuel
- Minerals extraction (terrestrial and marine)
- Mining industry
- Pig farms
- Radioprotection
- Regional development
- Residential developments eg new towns
- Ski areas, blocks of flats
- Some infrastructure projects on territorial waters
- Spatial planing
- The Commission is involved in all projects for which EIA is obligatory.
- The wide range of the various investments
- Various enterprises
- Waste management
- Water management
- We review ESs for all types of projects covered by the Dutch Commission for EIA, which has a legal task in advising on the guidelines for all EIS's and in reviewing EIS's.

4. QUESTION 4: ROLE IN THE EIA-PROCESS

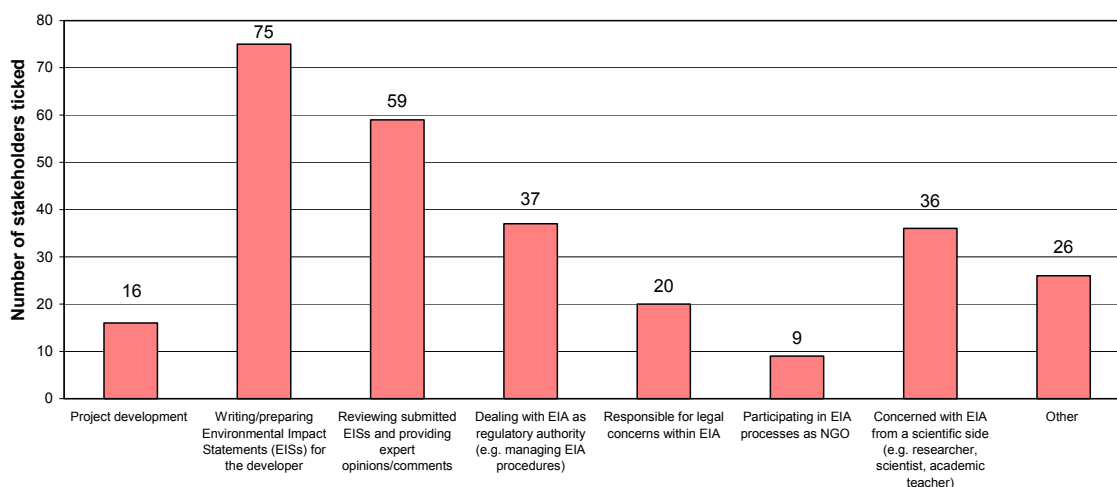
Wording of the question

4. What role do you generally play in the EIA process ?
- ☐ Project development
 - ☐ Writing/preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for the developer
 - ☐ Reviewing submitted EISs and providing expert opinions/comments
 - ☐ Dealing with EIA as regulatory authority (e.g. managing EIA procedures)
 - ☐ Responsible for legal concerns within EIA
 - ☐ Participating in EIA processes as NGO
 - ☐ Concerned with EIA from a scientific side (e.g. researcher, scientist, academic teacher)
 - ☐ Other – please give details

Results

ROLE OF THE STAKEHOLDERS IN EIA-PROCESS

Question asked: What role do you generally play in the EIA process ?



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States; more than one answers were allowed

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Additional Remarks:

- As competent authority – the central authority is competent for the activity in EIA process
- City of Bratislava is the legal participant in the EIA process
- Consultant advising company on methodology and assisting in the completion of assessments
- Consulting on methods and uncertainty of prediction
- Develop guidelines and standards for EIA
- Evaluation for the Ministry of Environment and lecturing Danish and foreign students

- Giving legal advice to local people and grassroots NGOs
- Member of the Committee of EIA since its establishment in 91
- I don't deal with any concrete EIA case
- Informations on EIA proces
- Managing a UK Agency, national EIA service within the UK's Environment Agency
- Participating in EIA processes as Provincial Environmental Ombudsman Salzburg
- Preparation of legal acts and regulation in EIA field
- Preparing advisory guidelines for competent authorities
- President of the Portuguese Association for Impact Assessment, affiliated of IAIA
- R & D (included training) mainly for the Ministry of Environment
- Safety assessment for Seveso plants
- Working as an expert for the regulatory authority

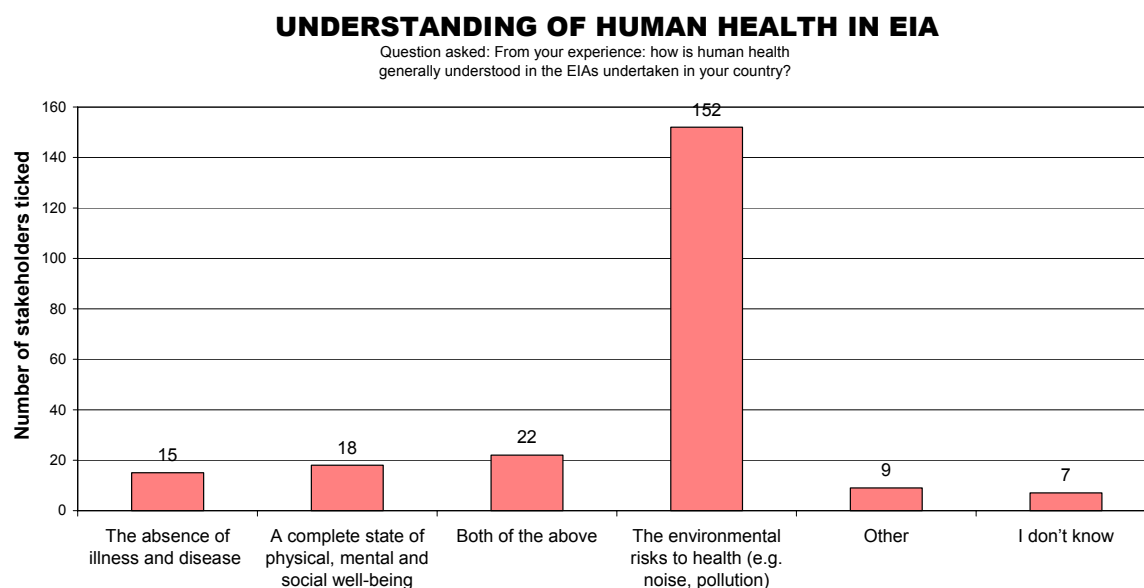
5. QUESTION 5: UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN HEALTH IN EIA

Wording of the question

5. From your experience: how is human health generally understood in the EIAs undertaken in your country?

- ☐ The absence of illness and disease
- ☐ A complete state of physical, mental and social well-being
- ☐ Both of the above
- ☐ The environmental risks to health (e.g. noise, pollution)
- ☐ Other – please give details
- ☐ I don't know

Results



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
more than one answers were allowed

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Additional Remarks:

- Absence of danger for health and absence of nuisance
- Environment as a recreational area for people
- Health impact is formally included in EIA but in practice it is not satisfactory
- In the EIA, lethality is also discussed. Unfortunately, I only have experience in EIA for Seveso plants where an additional safety assessment existed.

- Potential health impacts (positive & negative) during project development and operation phases, project activities altering determinants of health. These impacts may include direct effects on the health of the members of the population and more indirect effects through intermediate factors influencing the determinants of the health of the population. Such impacts may be felt immediately, in the short term, or after a longer period.
- Whether and how health is addressed in EIA strongly depends on the project. Where health-related limit values for air/soil/water pollutants are (almost) exceeded, these health-related environmental aspects are considered to be an important (=relevant) issue for the EIS. In the next table, 'always' does not mean that the aspect is always considered, but that it's always considered if relevant.

6. QUESTION 6: HEALTH ASPECTS CONSIDERED IN EIAs

Wording of the question

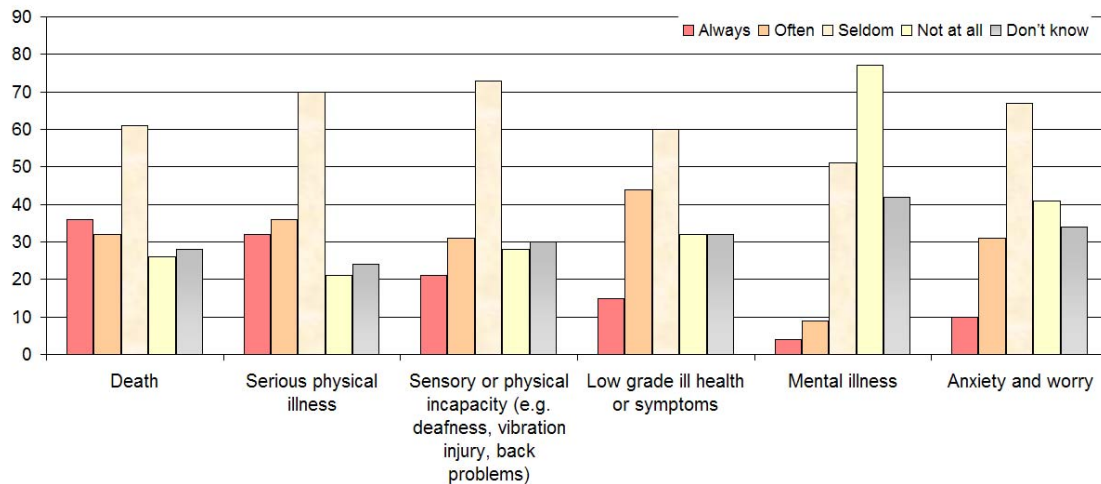
6. Which of the following aspects of a project's effects are considered by the EIAs undertaken in your country? (tick one per row)

	Always	Often	Seldom	Not at all	Don't know
A Outcomes considered					
Death	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serious physical illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sensory or physical incapacity (e.g. deafness, vibration injury, back problems)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low grade ill health or symptoms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anxiety and worry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other – please give details	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B Causal paths of effects/impacts					
Pollutant emissions to air, water and soil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accidents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact on visual amenity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C Influences on health					
Availability of recreation areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment opportunities /unemployment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effect on local economy and incomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education opportunities/level of education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to medical care, shops and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust, friendship and cohesion within community/ between neighbours (Social Capital)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other – please give details	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D Inequalities					
How different groups are affected (distribution of impacts by gender, age, ethnicity, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Results

HEALTH ASPECTS CONSIDERED IN EIAs - OUTCOMES

Question asked: Which of the following aspects of a project's effects are considered by the EIAs undertaken in your country? (tick one per row)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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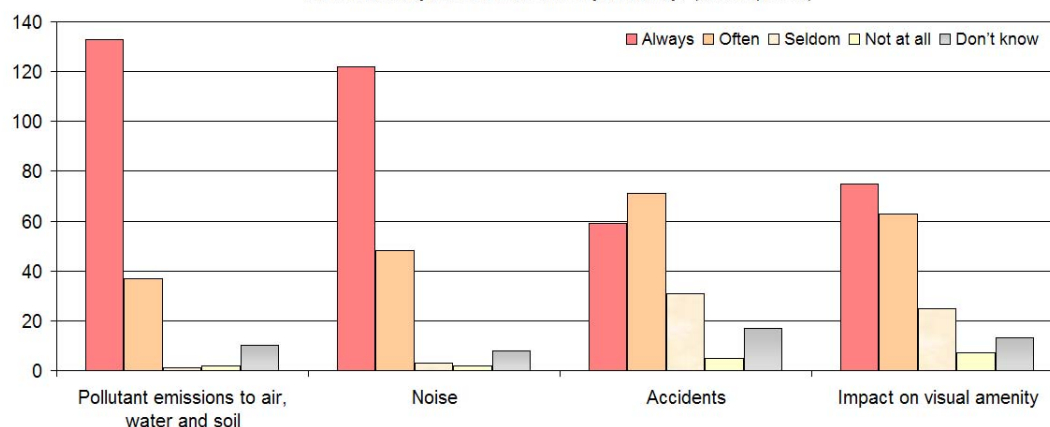


Additional Remarks to outcomes:

- Death and serious physical illness are not generally considered as acceptable outcomes of the projects. As the starting point is to eliminate those possibilities, they are not in so often dealt with in EISs.
- Disturbance
- Intoxication
- Of course we consider each case, whether the projects might cause death etc., but it is not necessarily part of the EIA statement.
- Pollution or contamination related effects
- Specific health problems based on data on toxicity of substances, e.g., risk of specific cancer

HEALTH ASPECTS CONSIDERED IN EIAS - CAUSAL PATHS OF EFFECTS

Question asked: Which of the following aspects of a project's effects are considered by the EIAs undertaken in your country? (tick one per row)



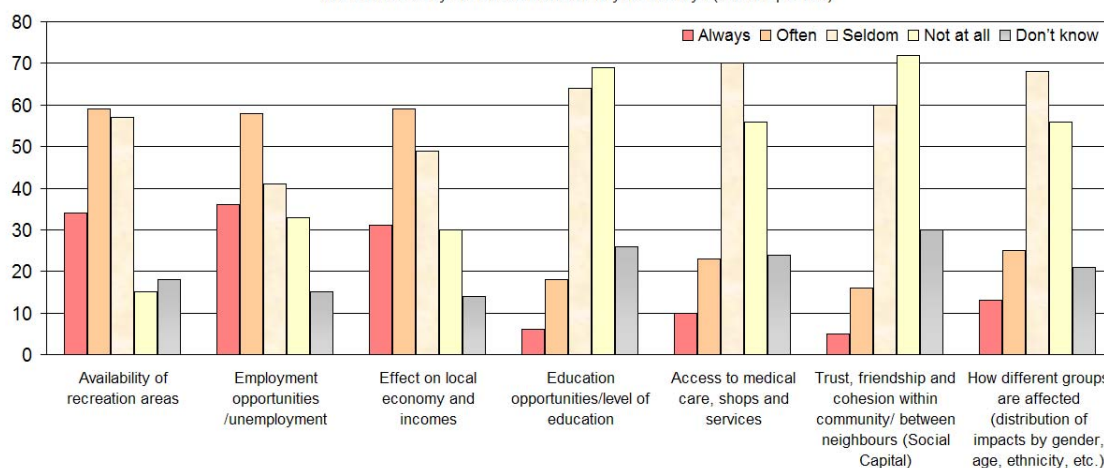
Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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HEALTH ASPECTS CONSIDERED IN EIAS - INFLUENCES ON HEALTH - INEQUALITIES

Question asked: Which of the following aspects of a project's effects are considered by the EIAs undertaken in your country? (tick one per row)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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Additional remarks to influences on health – inequalities:

- Above:death can be considered as a risk of cancer/WHO's criteria; quality criteria for ex.drinking water used, symptoms are not considered if health based quality criteria can be used e.g. for drinking water
- All of the above (B&C) depending on the project/EIA
- Disturbance
- Issues affecting the quality of local human environment, stress related to crime rate/safety/safeguarding residential property & possessions
- Physical fitness/exercise
- Remark: There is a different approach to different types of projects
- Social and economic impacts rather than health impact in our legislation
- We have research underway that will help us to answer these questions

7. QUESTION 7: BARRIERS TO THE COVERAGE OF HUMAN HEALTH IN EIAs

Wording of the question

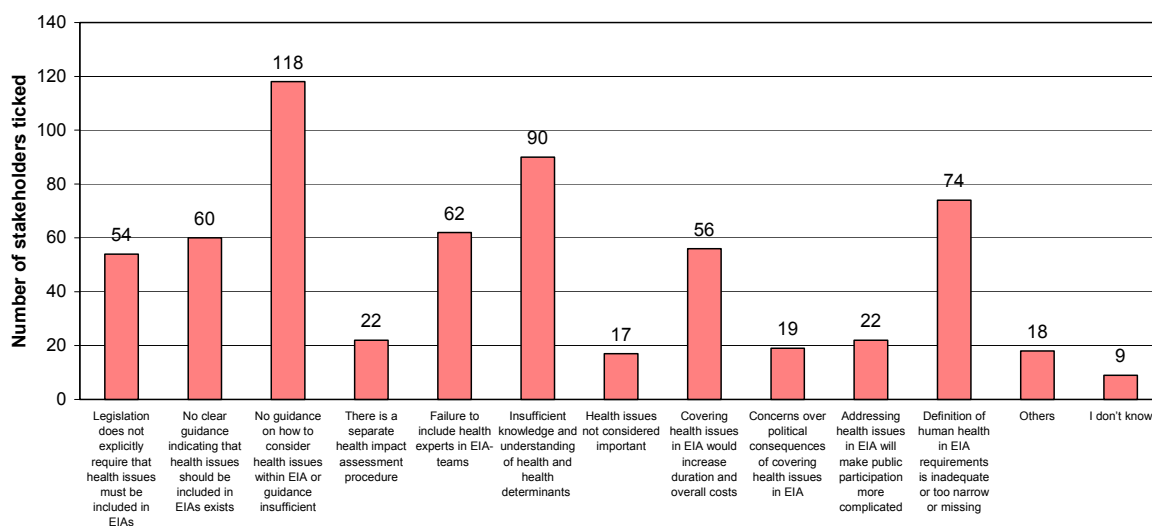
7. Which of the following items are barriers to the coverage of human health in EIAs ?
(Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Legislation does not explicitly require that health issues must be included in EIAs.
- ☐ No clear guidance indicating that health issues **should** be included in EIAs exists.
- ☐ No guidance on **how** to consider health issues within EIA or guidance insufficient.
- ☐ There is a separate health impact assessment procedure.
- ☐ Failure to include health experts in EIA-teams
- ☐ Insufficient knowledge and understanding of health and health determinants
- ☐ Health issues not considered important
- ☐ Covering health issues in EIA would increase duration and overall costs
- ☐ Concerns over political consequences of covering health issues in EIA
- ☐ Addressing health issues in EIA will make public participation more complicated
- ☐ Definition of human health in EIA requirements is inadequate or too narrow or missing
- ☐ Others – please give details
- ☐ I don't know

Results

BARRIERS TO THE COVERAGE OF HUMAN HEALTH IN EIAs

Question asked: Which of the following items are barriers to the coverage of human health in EIAs ? (Tick all that)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
more than one answers were allowed

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Other barriers:

- A better coverage would increase duration and costs. The legislation claims for the analysis of impact assessment of projects on human beings (so not explicitly health and security)
- The absence of practical indicators on health impacts and also the disbelief that health impacts could be predicted well enough within project related studies
- but, I think, it should be there
- Communication problems, human health experts do not know about the existence of EIA
- The complexity of studies against a poor understanding of the issues often results in HIA being treated as a generality within the assessment of 'human effects' as opposed to an objective stand alone assessment.
- EIA is a sectoral instrument confined to effects on the environment. Health effects are partly at least a different thing, similar to social effects, effects on education, religion or gender aspects. There is a good reason to split complex planning decisions in manageable parts – as environment, social, health, labour or economy to promote a fair appreciation of values. As there is legal necessity to assess and consider all relevant impacts on large projects (at least in Germany), though not within the EIA but within the entire decision process, your question is misleading. Problems arise, if health effects are not considered at all, problems arise as well, if the EIA is burdened with non environmental questions, obviously there is no problem in dealing with health on a second string.
- Health issues are already incorporated into the EIA process.
- Health issues as listed above are often not relevant for the decision on the project
- In UK, risks to human health are more often dealt with under responsibility of Health and Safety – there is of course overlap between management of the environment and minimising impact and management of human health and eliminating (minimising) and adverse impact.
- Institutional barriers – the Ministry of Health is not involved in EIA
- It is difficult for physicians to adapt to EIA needs and procedure; a lot of effort is needed to make them "just one member of the team" and to understand that health issues should be covered similarly like other topics and to apply similar tools for evaluation of impacts/consequences. Not many EIA conductors (co-ordinators) are capable and successful in these endeavours.
- No requirements of health impacts monitoring
- No responsibility for the initial level of pollution by the project solicitor
- One reason may be that environment permits for industrial plants are granted according to sectoral law, which does not take into account the wide definition of health, and so a social part of health cannot be considered in decision-making?
- Only physical well-being considered relevant in Austrian EIA
- The health impact on individuals who are users of public establishments (e.g. drivers, passengers or customers) are usually not taken into consideration.
- There are needs to have barriers/limits. Accidents on the roads that have no implication for the surroundings and people there, are dealt with in special impact assessment for road users. Some of the aspects taken up above belong to socio economic impacts which (if relevant) are dealt with separate from EIA. Sometimes there are difficulties to decide in which "box" some aspects belong to – then it is not so important which box – while avoiding double treatment and avoiding to forget significant impacts. EIA should assess future impacts which means that it is not relevant to come close to individual aspects. Assessment of death and illness needs a large population and statistics and is only needed in certain cases concerning road and rail

infrastructure projects. Accessibility could in certain cases be part of EIA but not generally. Accessibility is as well as road safety and environment one of the objectives of the transport policy and of great importance for the function of transport systems and land use management that cannot be covered in EIA, as we in western Europe should have good application of land use planning and impact assessment of several kinds and goal achievement management. Impacts on natural environments for recreation (including access to) is an interest that is often dealt with in EIA but under the title "outdoor recreation" and not under health. Less accidents on the road is usually the aim of a road project in Sweden. In developing countries – when e g the world bank require EIA and that nothing else is required, EIA might need to cover more (everything).

- Even now, incorporating human health in EIAs is possible if appropriate. There is no clear difference between "health impact assessment" and "health risk assessment".

8. QUESTION 8: MEASURES TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF THE RELATION BETWEEN HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Wording of the question

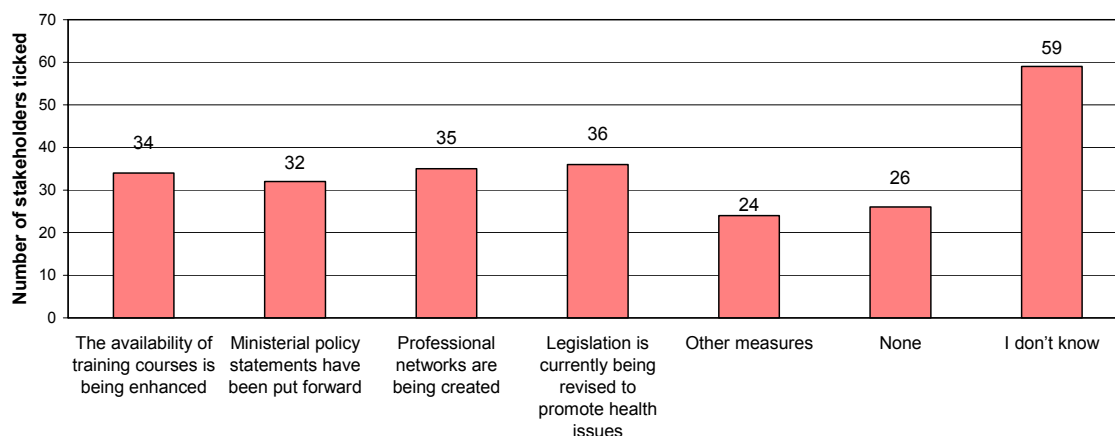
8. What measures are being taken in your country to increase the awareness of the relation between human health impacts and environmental impacts? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ The availability of training courses is being enhanced
- ☐ Ministerial policy statements have been put forward
- ☐ Professional networks are being created
- ☐ Legislation is currently being revised to promote health issues
- ☐ Other measures – please give details
- ☐ None
- ☐ I don't know

Results

MEASURES TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF THE RELATION BETWEEN HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Question asked: What measures are being taken in your country to increase the awareness of the relation between human health impacts and environmental impacts? (Tick all that apply)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States; more than one answers were allowed

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Other measures

- A scientific/research based initiative has been taken
- APUG-programme
- At the moment, a concrete approach is being followed on the relation of Environment and Children Health, including awareness raising, training etc. A national Committee has been

established to promote relevant actions. I am chairing this Committee and as a member of the EIA, I try to push health considerations in the process

- Awareness is present, however, physicians want to do HIA – health impact assessment separately. Formally, i.e. according to EIA regulation, health impacts are an integral part of EIA. Ministerial cooperation should be stronger.
- Development of guidance (books and so on)
- Growing awareness of the issue among EIA agencies and professionals and recognition for its inclusion under specific development types
- Guidelines
- Guidelines have been issued
- Guidelines also concerning human health
- Guidance
- Guides on how to assess health and social impacts have been put forward by the ministry of social affairs and health – not the ministry of environment
- Our advice is to be reviewed and strengthened on dealing with health issues in EIA and on Environmental Protection aspects of land use planning.
- Policy advices
- Pressure by communities, residents, NGO's
- Public information, progress in legislation
- See above: human health aspects are well thought about, but not primarily within the EIA, certain laws nevertheless (as noise and air quality) are currently revised due to other European directives, though there was no deficiency related to EIA-quality
- Some initiatives by the Ministry of Health, e.g. Healthy Cities
- Some professionals include physical and health impacts on their impact assessment and impact monitoring; hopefully it will raise awareness among decision makers and EISs' regulatory authorities
- The awareness is great and promoted by very strict standards for air-quality etc. The interest of relation between change of transport mode concerning health is increasing.
- There was an active period (a project by the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Social and Health Affairs) in the 90's when health and social impact assessment was emphasized, training courses were held, networks were established. In Finland, we talk about impacts to human being, covering both health and social aspects.
- Profound guidance is given by ministries
- www.hiagateway.org.uk

9. QUESTION 9: INFLUENCE OF THE ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS IN EIA

Wording of the question

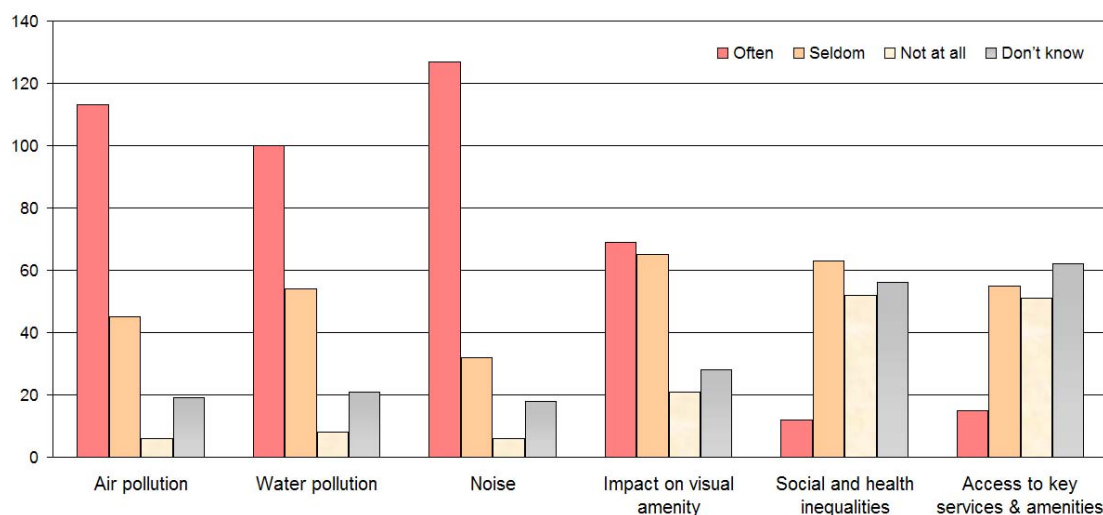
9. For each of the following: To what extent has the assessment of human health impacts modified project designs or developments or other wise influenced them before or after an EIA? (Tick one per row)

Type of impact	Often	Seldom	Not at all	Don't know
Air pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact on visual amenity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social and health inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to key services & amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others – please give details	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Results

INFLUENCE OF THE ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS IN EIA

Question asked: For each of the following: To what extent has the assessment of human health impacts modified project designs or developments or other wise influenced them before or after an EIA? (Tick one per row)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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Others

- Again: the last two points are not matters of the EIA but considered as own entities
- Exposure to toxic substances

- The general approach and understanding in Slovenia is that human health is protected if the environment is clean. So, it is about indirect consideration and influence: if, for example, there is no air pollution it is good for health. No specific requirements are needed in terms of health protection – instead it is enough to say that no air pollution should be allowed.
- I find that the issues affecting health above are often covered in EIAs for major residential/mixed use urban development, but not all from a specific 'health impact' perspective!
- It is difficult to answer because the legislation already sets quite definite levels to take air-, water- and noise pollution into account
- Perception of health risk
- Social and health inequalities and access to key services & amenities are guaranteed, but that's as good as it gets. Projects aren't designed in order to promote them.
- The question is not clear and can be interpreted in different ways. What is meant with 'assessment of health impacts'? HIA as part of EIA or any study/evaluation/guidelines concerning health impacts of activities? Before or after EIA' includes the whole planning and decision taking process and part of what happens during the process and the reasons for adapting a plan, are not always visible to us. Health impact assessment always implicitly influences project designs, but is not often based on an explicit human impact assessment for a specific project but because of existing health based legal guidelines for f.i. noise, air quality, water pollution. So you could say that HIA very 'often' influences projects. These aspects are however sometimes already taken into account in the first project design and then changes in the plans are not necessary anymore. This is often the case and for these aspects, we would then come to 'seldom' modifications. As well, the aspects in the last three rows are often already integrated in the planning process and not subject to an explicit health impact assessment.
- We have research underway that will help us to answer these questions

10. QUESTION 10: TYPES OF RISK ADRESSED IN EIA

Wording of the question

The following questions refer to two different meanings of the term "risk":

- A The possibility of significant adverse effects on the natural or man-made environment, including human beings, that could result from the potential occurrence of extraordinary or abnormal hazardous events (natural disasters, accidents etc.). Here, environmental effects that are connected to a project's normal or controlled operation are not included ("low probability – high-consequence risks"). The following definitions apply:
Hazard ... a threatening event or situation that could lead to damage or harm; source of risk.
Risk ... combination of probability of occurrence of a hazard and magnitude of expected negative effects.
- B Major social risks: risk that a project may cause major social changes to communities, families, population groups etc.

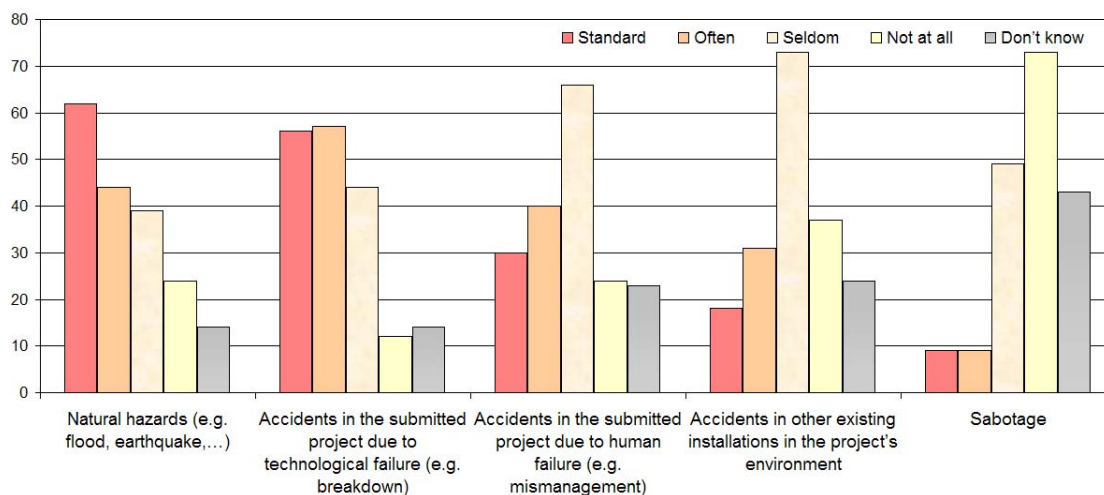
10. Which types of extraordinary hazards that could affect a project and which risks of major social effects that could result from a project are addressed in EIAs in your country? (tick one per row):

A Type of hazard	Standard	Often	Seldom	Not at all	Don't know
Natural hazards (e.g. flood, earthquake,...)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accidents in the submitted project due to technological failure (e.g. breakdown)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accidents in the submitted project due to human failure (e.g. mismanagement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accidents in other existing installations in the project's environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sabotage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B Major social risks	Standard	Often	Seldom	Not at all	Don't know
Unemployment, loss of income, impoverishment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase in crime rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population changes (migration, relocation...)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social exclusion, desintegration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other – please give details	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Results

TYPES OF EXTRAORDINARY HAZARDS ADRESSED IN EIA

Question asked: Which types of extraordinary hazards that could affect a project and which risks of major social effects that could result from a project are addressed in EIAs in your country? (tick one per row):



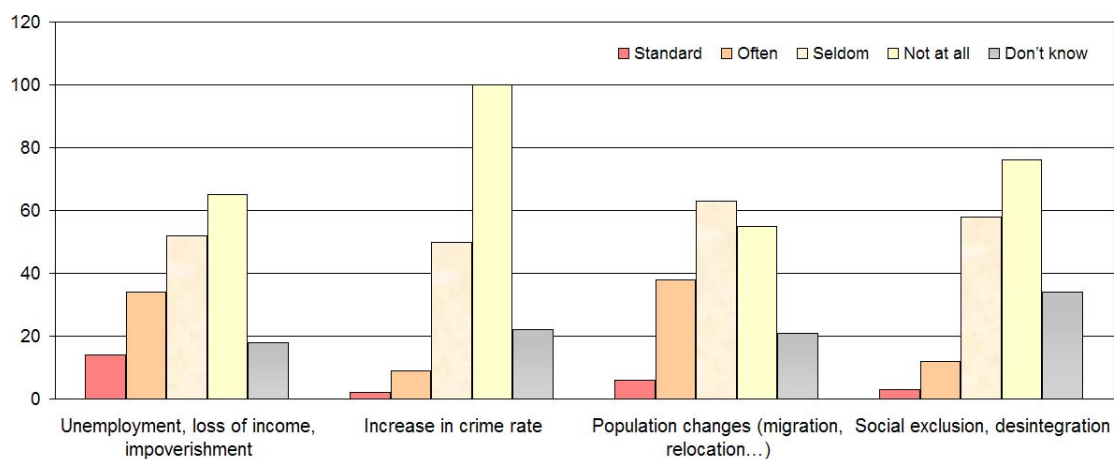
Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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TYPES OF EXTRAORDINARY HAZARDS ADRESSED IN EIA

Question asked: Which types of extraordinary hazards that could affect a project and which risks of major social effects that could result from a project are addressed in EIAs in your country? (tick one per row):



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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Additional remarks in the category “other”

- Accidents
- This has to be considered if relevant, but most aspects not within the EIA
- Explanation for the answers on question 10A: Hazards are included in EIA when they are relevant. That is, they are included if limit values for risk (individual risk, group risk, risk of flooding) are (almost) exceeded. So, with ticking 'standard' we don't mean to say that this items are always included, we do mean to say that this type of hazard is always considered when relevant. Human failure is especially considered in large projects (e.g. nuclear plants); for small standard projects, it has no role in the calculations.
- Final disposal of burnt nuclear fuel is an exception to above ticked answers, in that case risks were studied largely and thoroughly
- For section A, the answers were given considering the amount of projects that require risk assessment, even though all the projects that require risk assessment often consider the above issues.
- General guidelines have been issued
- Soon the non EU immigrants are going to cause social impacts on EU countries. Need attention in the EIA. It will be similar to what had happened with coloured population in the USA
- We have research underway that will help us to answer these questions.

11. QUESTION 11: STAGES OF THE ASSESSMENT OF RISKS USUALLY APPLIED TO EIAs

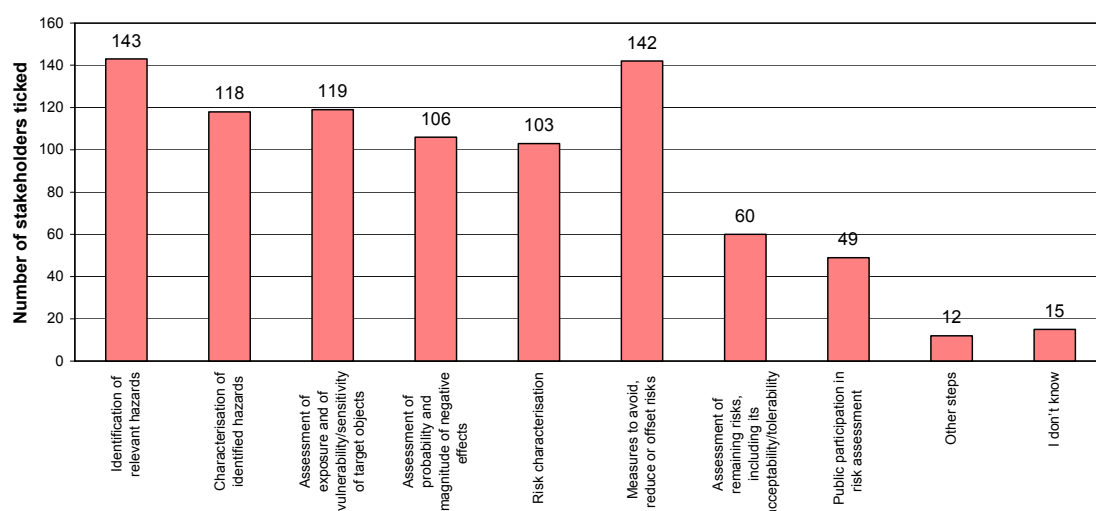
Wording of the question

11. Which of these stages of the assessment of risks due to extraordinary hazards (natural disasters, accidents etc.) are usually applied to EIAs in your country? (Tick all that apply)
- ☐ Identification of relevant hazards
 - ☐ Characterisation of identified hazards (probability, intensity, spatial range, ...)
 - ☐ Assessment of exposure and of vulnerability/sensitivity of target objects (natural environment, human health, material assets) to impacts of a hazardous event
 - ☐ Assessment of probability and magnitude of negative effects (damage, harm)
 - ☐ Risk characterisation: estimation of resulting risk and evaluation of its significance
 - ☐ Measures to avoid, reduce or offset risks (mitigation measures)
 - ☐ Assessment of remaining risks, including its acceptability/tolerability
 - ☐ Public participation in risk assessment (consideration of individual perceptions of risk, involvement in decision-making on mitigation measures and acceptability of risk,...)
 - ☐ Other steps – please give details
 - ☐ I don't know

Results

STAGES OF THE ASSESSMENT OF RISKS USUALLY APPLIED TO EIAs

Question asked: Which of these stages of the assessment of risks due to extraordinary hazards (natural disasters, accidents etc.) are usually applied to EIAs in your country? (Tick all that apply)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States; more than one answers were allowed

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Other steps

- Above: usually no calculation or models or methods in an EIA report
- ATTENTION : not usually applied, but seldom in case of industrial developments
- Consultation with authorities for the purpose of specifying ALARP and tolerable risk
- Note: there is also a separate government agency, which depending on the type of development, specifically deals with examining risk in new development eg Health & Safety Executive
- Only considered relevant in few large and risky projects
- As general part of general public participation
- Risk perception is considered on a very small amount of studies for specific experts, and there are risk perception research in some Portuguese Universities
- The EIA mentions other safety studies, but if these are not available: this is included in the EIA.
- The EIS, including the assesment of risk is reviewed by independent experts of the Dutch Commission for EIA. When necessary, the Commission signals the necessity of risk assessment in its advice for guidelines.
- We have research underway that will help us to answer these questions)

12. QUESTION 12: MAIN BARRIERS TO MORE COVERAGE OF RISK ASSESSMENT IN EIAs

Wording of the question

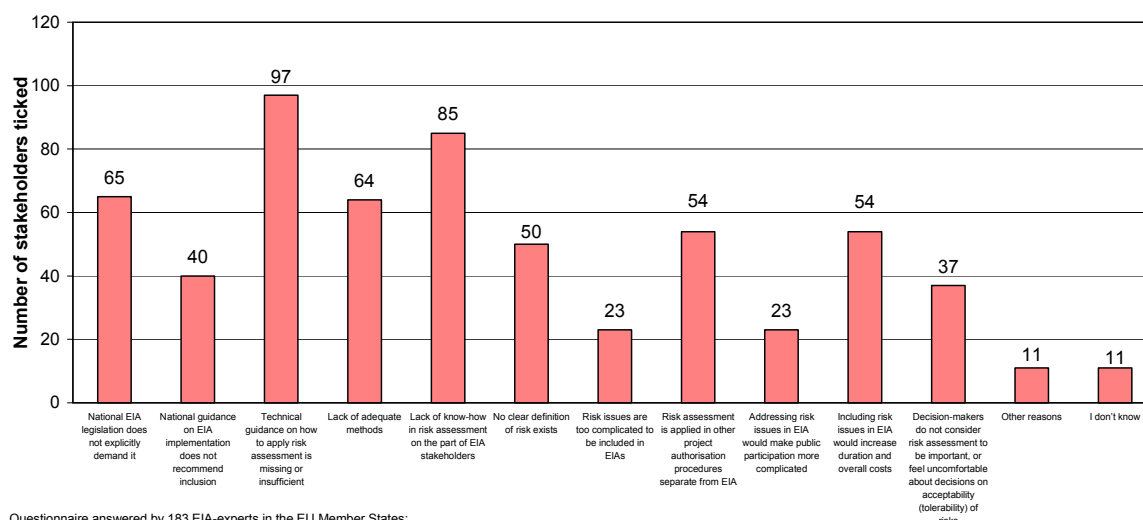
12. Which do you think are the main barriers to more coverage of risk assessment (extraordinary and/or major social risks) in your country? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ National EIA legislation does not explicitly demand it
- ☐ National guidance on EIA implementation does not recommend inclusion
- ☐ Technical guidance on **how** to apply risk assessment is missing or insufficient
- ☐ Lack of adequate methods
- ☐ Lack of know-how in risk assessment on the part of EIA stakeholders
- ☐ No clear definition of risk exists
- ☐ Risk issues are too complicated to be included in EIAs.
- ☐ Risk assessment is applied in other project authorisation procedures separate from EIA.
- ☐ Addressing risk issues in EIA would make public participation more complicated.
- ☐ Including risk issues in EIA would increase duration and overall costs.
- ☐ Decision-makers do not consider risk assessment to be important, or feel uncomfortable about decisions on acceptability (tolerability) of risks
- ☐ Other reasons – please give details
- ☐ I don't know

Results

MAIN BARRIERS TO MORE COVERAGE OF RISK ASSESSMENT IN EIAs

Question asked: Which do you think are the main barriers to more coverage of risk assessment (extraordinary and/or major social risks) in your country? (Tick all that apply)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States; more than one answer was allowed

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Other reasons

- Due to overlap with H&S risk assessments, risks associated with wider human environment (unemployment etc) fall more naturally into CSR (coporate social responsibility) at present
- In Austria, we make a distinction between the two meanings of risk; most of our projects are not of a size that could probably cause major social risks; we think, this question should be better dealt with at strategic level.
- Lack of know-how in risk assessment on the part of EISs regulatory and assessment authorities; afraid of people's reaction during public consultancy on the part of EISs regulatory and assessment authorities;
- Lack of motivation/willingness to fund or address appropriate studies by proponent
- Only considered relevant in few large and risky projects
- Risk assessment is taken into account where there is a demand for it
- There are no frequent cases of industrial projects in our urban Region.
- There are no barriers. Risk assessment is fully covered in the Dutch legislation. A recent incident (explosion in fireworks storage in residential area of Enschede) has focussed attention of all decision makers to this aspect.
- There is a risk for confusion today as total risk management has been high lighted and covers everything - and sometimes it becomes too much. EIA for roads should mainly deal with impacts due to accidents with dangerous goods and impacts due to landslides etc. Normally, geotechnical surveys are most important to avoid landslides or geohydrological risks. These surveys has combined purposes, both for technical solutions and for environmental assessment. Adequate risk issues for users of road tunnels – but that should not be a part of EIA but of other type of impact assessment (for users).
- The situation is very different with extraordinary hazards (no major problem) and social risks (which are not, in France in the scope of an EIA)

13. QUESTION 13: MODIFICATION OF PROJECT DESIGN THROUGH EIA

Wording of the question

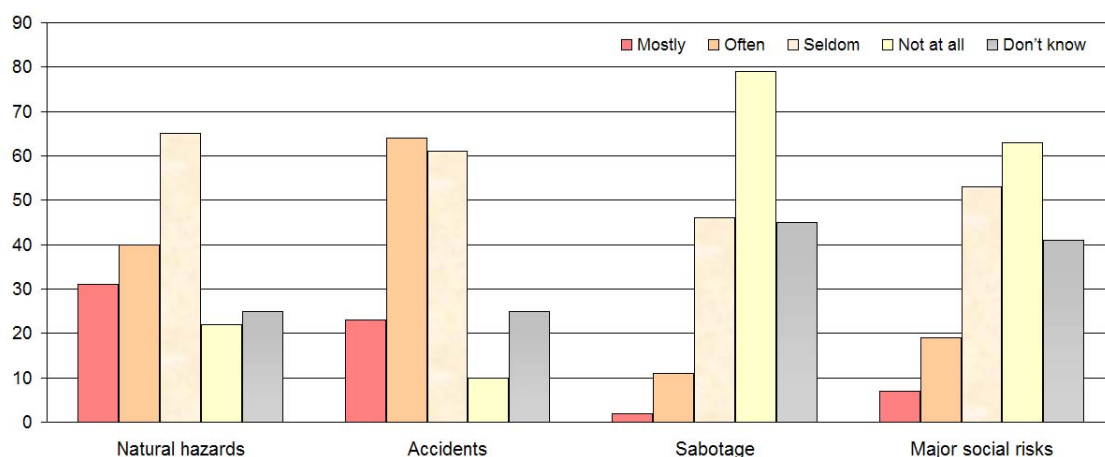
13. For each of the following: Do you think risk assessment in EIA has modified project designs or developments or otherwise influenced them before or after an EIA? (Tick one per row)

Type of hazard	Mostly	Often	Seldom	Not at all	Don't know
Natural hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accidents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sabotage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major social risks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Results

MODIFICATION OF PROJECT DESIGN THROUGH EIA

Question asked: For each of the following: Do you think risk assessment in EIA has modified project designs or developments or otherwise influenced them before or after an EIA? (Tick one per row)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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14. QUESTION 14: SATISFACTION WITH SELECTION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT TYPES

Wording of the question

14. Is the selection and description of project types adopted by your national/regional EIA legislation from your point of view ... (Tick all that apply)

☐ ... satisfactory and comprehensive

☐ ... unsatisfactory with respect to environmental protection, because of ...

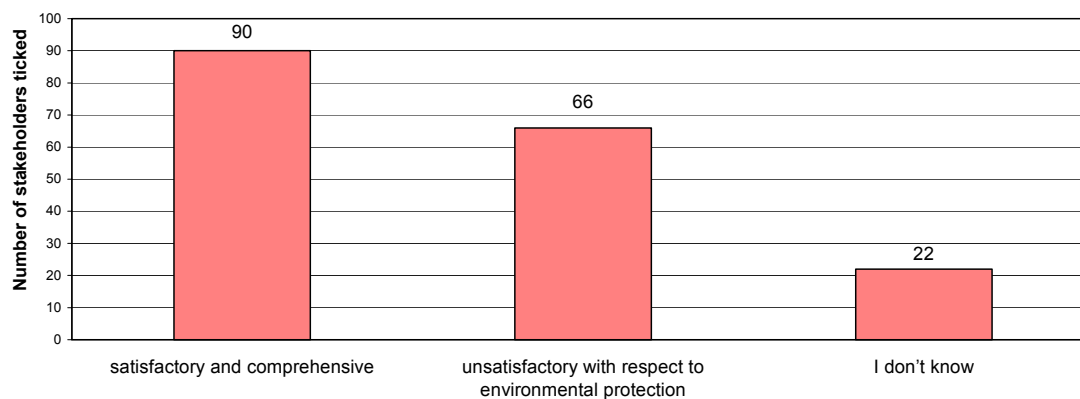
<input type="checkbox"/> too many project types	if ticked, could you specify which ones and why:	
<input type="checkbox"/> missing project types	could you specify which ones:	
<input type="checkbox"/> inappropriate project descriptions	if ticked, please give the difficulties in interpretation and name the categories:	
<input type="checkbox"/> inappropriate criteria	if ticked, please give the main reasons and name categories:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> different criteria should be used	For category/ies:
	<input type="checkbox"/> same criteria, but set at a different level	For category/ies:
	<input type="checkbox"/> other reasons:	For category/ies:
<input type="checkbox"/> inappropriate set of thresholds	if ticked, please give the main reasons:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> threshold is not appropriate for the country	For category/ies:
	<input type="checkbox"/> threshold does not comply with state-of-the-art	For category/ies:
	<input type="checkbox"/> no threshold should be set	For category/ies:
	<input type="checkbox"/> other reasons:	For category/ies:

☐ I don't know

Results

SATISFACTION WITH SELECTION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT TYPES

Question asked: Is the selection and description of project types adopted by your national/regional EIA legislation from your point of view ... (Tick all that apply)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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... unsatisfactory with respect to environmental protection, because of ...



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
more than one answers were allowed

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Remarks according to “too many project types”

- Also very small road projects taking one meter of land is covered by mandatory EIA and all procedures
- Even small projects with insignificant impacts require EIA.
- In Sweden, there are very many EIAs made every year. I think there are too many. We even make EIAs for very small projects.
- Individual buildings, garages (no SEA for land-use plans)
- It is required to assess pensions (as accommodation facility, app. 1, tab. 14 of Slovak EIA Act) in protected areas by full (compulsory) EIA process. Several villages in Slovakia lie completely inside protected areas (buffer zones of national parks) and thus all development even inside the village in accordance with urban plan has to be assessed by compulsory (full) EIA process, which is inadequate.
- Mainly lack of clear specifications and inadequate staffing of the EIA authorising bodies
- Need to have a generic development because new types are developed year by year
- Parking spaces and other standard projects, where possible impact is known without detailed assesement
- Production of fibreboards
- Relative simple projects such as road widening, building houses and recreational facilities in existing urban areas; because of the relative small impact on environment
- Screenings projects, municipal infrastructure
- Small projects require EIA although a screening process would consider it unnecessary
- The small facilities covered by the directive on control of risks
- Thresholds should be reasonable to include in Annex 2 and allow to use Annex 2 as a guidance, not obligatory prerequisite
- Tresholds are very low
- Urban developments
- Wind turbines due to overlap with H&S risk assessments, risks associated with wider human environment (unemployment etc) fall more naturally into CSR (coporate social responsibility) at present

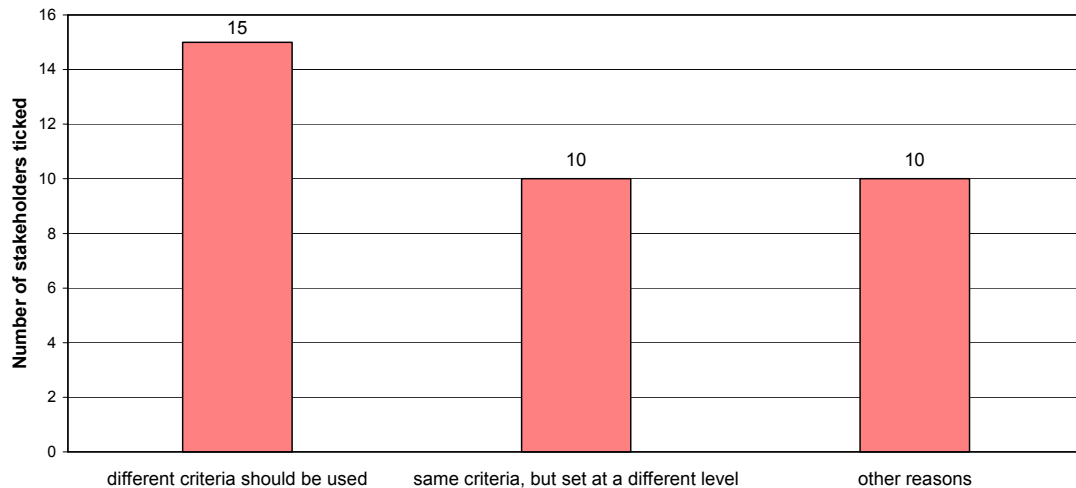
Remarks according to “missing project types”

- Closed list that does not consider local conditions and/or cumulative effects of projetcs
- Dikes and high voltage earth cables
- e.g. production of tyres
- Gas compressor stations
- Health assessments for non ionizing radiation
- IMP in EIA is just developing and is not yet fully developed / applicable
- Innovative or new project types may not be identified in the legislation but should be subject to EIA
- Marine renewable projects, including test projects, should be specifically included – although these are new types of projects, the omission may cause problems in future
- For instance golf courses
- Sectoral and spatial plans

- Small projects are not subject to EIA. In certain cases the concentration of small projects in specific areas has serious adverse environmental and social impacts. Can be dealt with through SEA – but one has to see.
- Storage of fireworks, cable-laying of power lines, development of former port areas to residential areas
- Urban development projects, including a large type of development, tend to be grouped as one type of project
- Wild-life stalk along road and railroad networks and also telecommunication and radio pylons
- wind power plant/parks
- Windmills

Remarks according to “inappropriate project descriptions”

- 2.10b urban development does not specifically include major urban residential or commercial/business/ warehousing developments and it is left to the courts to interpret.
- A plain area of forest can be totally cut without EIA.. These projects have significant environmental effects, but they are not subject to EIA because of the criteria laid down in EIA directive and the economic importance of forestry in Finland.
- There is no adequate extent and content description in the assessment of the components of the project
- Scale and quality of production or storage of chemicals could be more precise and understandable from readers's point of view
- Waste management, shipping lanes, water constructing and regulation
- Waste management projects, the amount of these projects has really increased in the past years and the "old" definition in the legislation should be defined more precisely. As for projects with chemicals, the definition should also be rewritten to be more precise. Loose list which does not consider local conditions and/or cumulative effects of projects
- Those for which social impact can be reasonably expected to be long-lasting and extensive
- Many types of the industrial sector
- Risk should be included
- Sometimes you need to do preliminary assessment to decide whether to perform specific one – tiered approach
- The criteria are not objective

... inappropriate criteria

Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
more than one answer were allowed

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**Remarks according to “different criteria should be used”**

- e.g. ferrous metals processing
- For smaller sources – they get through without an EIA
- Many thresholds put to a too low level, e.g. waste management, fuel storing
- Production of plastic materials
- Regulations are based on development types, and not on receptors. 2.10b urban development does not specifically include major urban residential or commercial/business/ warehousing developments and it is left to the courts to interpret
- categories in Dutch EIA legislation: 4; 7; 8.1;8.2; 10.1;10.2;10.317.2; 24; EIA obligatory only when sensitive areas are at stake
- Golf courses

Remarks according to “same criteria, but set at a different level”

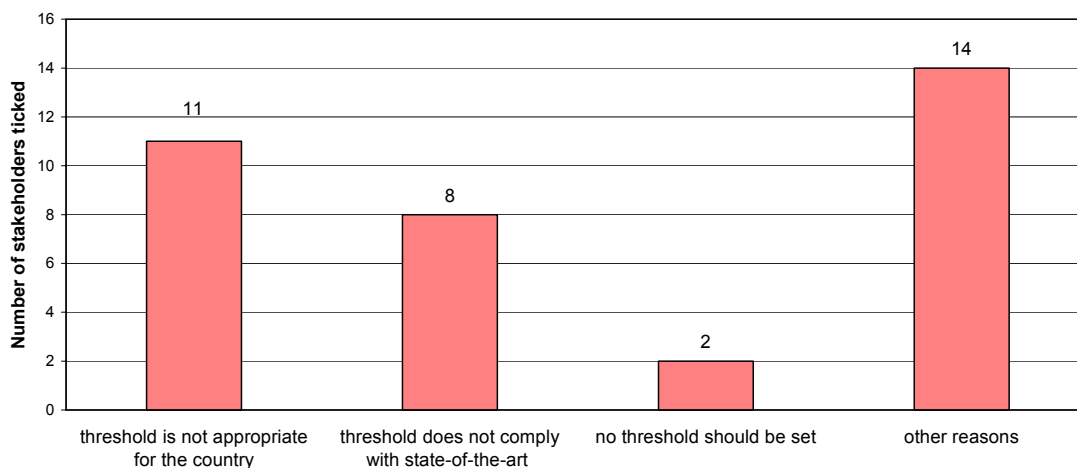
- Water, resources, noise
- Size of wind farms, rules too strict

Remarks according to “other reasons”

- Construction of airfields – the criteria should capture situations where there is a large increase in flights ie to ensure EIA is done where there is a change from small scale use to commercial use for holiday / low cost flights, without requiring a judgement of 'significant impacts'. Unauthorised EIA development took place at Coventry Airport in this situation.
- Lack of detailed guidance of criteria
- National EIA legislation is not adapted to your region

- No available EIA Studies specifications
- Often reference to legislation of federal state, criteria should be consistent within member state
- Should have a case by case approach for projects, not included in positive or negative lists
- Equated annual production average
- The thresholds should be discussed with specific experts

... inappropriate set of thresholds



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
more than one answers were allowed

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Remarks according to “threshold is not appropriate for the country”

- Tiered approach
- All petrol stations, more than 20 garages, all guest houses outside settlements
- Manufacture limes
- Waste management

Remarks according to “threshold does not comply with state-of-the-art”

- e.g. pig iron production
- Waste management

Remarks according to “no threshold should be set”

- Infrastructure projects thresholds are determined by area

Remarks according to “other reasons”

- Insecurity
- Lack of detailed guidance on thresholds

- Often reference to legislation of federal state, thresholds should be consistent within member state
- Regional differences in sensitivity are not considered
- Threshold may apply to all situations
- Thresholds are too high
- Thresholds for sinter or cement
- Thresholds too low too have significant impact
- You cannot only do it like this, you have to take receptors and work backwards into consideration
- Categories in Dutch EIA legislation: 5.1; 5.3; 5.4
- e.g. streets
- Hydro power plants, pig farms
- No idea, specific guidances needed – to ensure appropriate removal of hazardous "artefacts"
- Traffic forecast

15. QUESTION 15: ADDITIONAL PROJECT TYPES

Wording of the question

15. From your experience: Which additional project types from the list below, that are not yet listed in the EU directive, should be made subject to EIA?

(Tick all that apply and if possible, suggest mode of application)

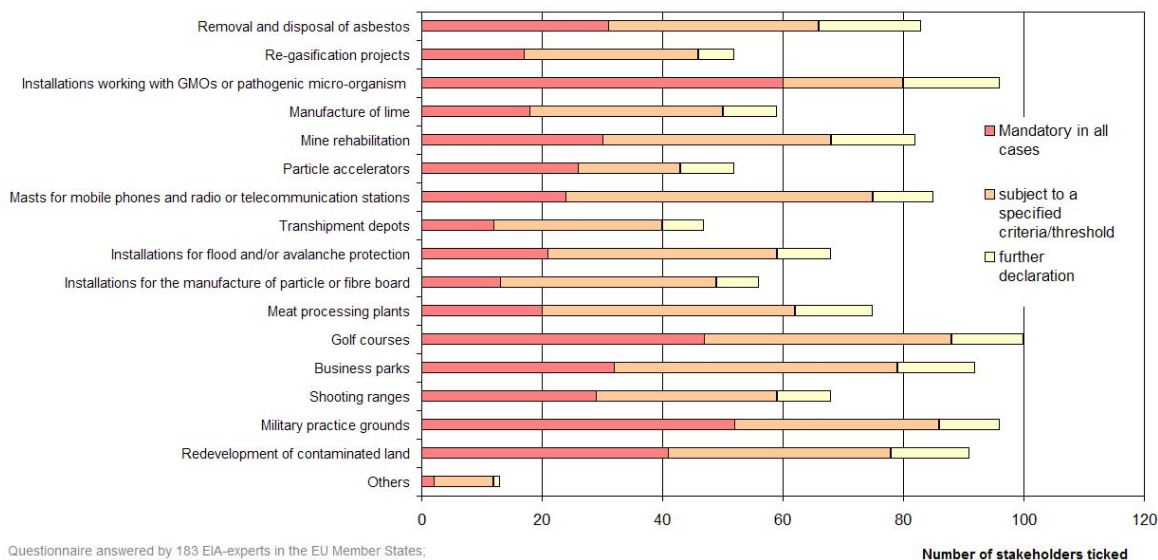
Project type	Mode of Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Removal and disposal of asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Re-gasification projects (transforming gas into liquefied gas for transportation and then re-transforming it into gas for consumption)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Installations working with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or pathogenic micro-organism such as laboratories, test facilities, trial areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacture of lime	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Mine rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Particle accelerators (of 50 MeV [mega-electron volts] and over)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Masts for mobile phones and radio or telecommunication stations	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Transshipment depots	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Installations for flood and/or avalanche protection (e.g. torrent control facilities, erosion control regimes,...)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Installations for the manufacture of particle or fibre board	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Meat processing plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf courses	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:

Project type	Mode of Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Business parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Shooting ranges	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Military practice grounds	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment of contaminated land (e.g. brown fields, ...)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:
<input type="checkbox"/> Others (please justify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory in all cases <input type="checkbox"/> subject to a specified criteria/threshold Suggested criteria/threshold:

Results

ADDITIONAL PROJECT TYPES

Question asked: From your experience: Which additional project types from the list below, that are not yet listed in the EU directive, should be made subject to EIA? (Tick all that apply and if possible, suggest mode of application)



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States; more than one answers were allowed

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Project type	Suggested thresholds
Removal and disposal of asbestos	<p>100 t / a</p> <p>amount of free asbestos fibres > 50 t/y</p> <p>demolition of structures listed in Annex 1 or significant risk for Annex 2 structures</p> <p>Quantity of material to be removed</p> <p>Risk analysis</p> <p>threshold</p> <p>to be agreed</p> <p>volume</p>
Re-gasification projects	<p>25 MW</p> <p>manufacturing plants for liquid gas or significant quantities (knowledge of gas systems low!!)</p> <p>not relevant for Austria</p> <p>threshold</p>
Installations working with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or pathogenic micro-organism	<p>field release/human test facilities</p> <p>threshold</p>
Manufacture of lime	<p>1000t</p> <p>20 000 – 100 000 t/year</p> <p>Capacity</p> <p>e.g. 100000 t/y</p> <p>from 20 000 ton/year to 100 000 ton/year</p> <p>over 100 000 t/y</p> <p>production over 50t per day</p> <p>Quantity of material to be removed</p> <p>Risk analysis</p> <p>size, and location</p> <p>tecnological level of a project and expected environmental impact</p> <p>threshold</p>
Mine rehabilitation	<p>25 ha</p> <p>All underground mines, quarries and open pits according to their size (e.g. area more than 1 ha)</p> <p>impact on environment if mine rehabilitation is not carried out</p> <p>Mine dimension</p> <p>mining activities above threshold already need EIA</p> <p>Risk analysis</p> <p>threshold</p>
Particle accelerators (of 50 MeV [mega-electron volts] and over)	<p>not relevant for Austria</p>
Masts for mobile phones and radio or telecommunication stations	<p>... never ending story, EIA cannot solve problems (social acceptance)</p> <p>Across criteria proposed by the relevant EU body</p> <p>Damage has already been done regarding landscape issues</p> <p>distance to infra-structures such as residential areas or collective buildings or services</p> <p>from 500 kW output capacity or capacity over 750 W and frequency</p>

Project type	Suggested thresholds
	over 1 GHz from 500 kw output capacity or capacity over 750 W and frequency over 1 GHz Height and / or surface area in urban area and to 500 m far off one layout of the vicinity of masts localization in the landscape Power proximity to sensitive receptor Risk analysis sensitive areas within settlement areas
Transshipment depots	dependant on materials handled and volumes handled determined on what licenced to handle Dimension goods, chemicals in transit Quantity of material to be transported size of the concerned area threshold traffic generation
Installations for flood and/or avalanche protection	1 ha capital cost Cost of works flood protection measures already need EIA In the UK flood structures already fall under the EIA regulations although thresholds vague localization in protected wetlands protected area, especially Natura 2000, residential areas risk risk vs. environmental impacts size size of intervention, sensibility of the concerned area and probability of natural disasters size threshold, potential effects on protected sites threshold
Installations for the manufacture of particle or fibre board	100 000 t/a 50 000 m2 depends on fibre type over 20t per day over 50 000 m3/yr plant capacity Quantity of material to be manufactured risk threshold
Meat processing plants	20 animals/week incoming amount of meat (animals)

Project type	Suggested thresholds
	Dimension don't know – volume put through? IPPC threshold or 20000 t/y Quantity of material to be processed quantity of processed animals Quantity of waste and wastewater threshold
Golf courses	area area and localization in protected areas depending on land in-take, quality of land take up and amount of water required distance from nearest similar facility – EIA if less than 10 miles from similar facility golf courses > 10 ha already need EIA in Austria: 10 ha or 1500 motor vehicle sites in natural environments Mandatory only in protected areas over 9 drives protected area/50 ha threshold Water needs
Business parks	10 ha 10 ha area area of development Business parks > 1000 parking places already need EIA Capacity depending on size dimension quantity of motor vehicle sites Size, transport infrastructure threshold traffic (N of cars, garages)
Shooting ranges	area depending on size distance to infrastructures such as residential areas or collective buildings or services threshold when lead ammunition is used, > 50.000 shots/y
Military practice grounds	100 ha 20 ha 25ha area, protective areas distance to infrastructures such as residential areas or collective buildings or services new land uses over 100 ha

Project type	Suggested thresholds
	Proximity to settlement area, recreational area, size Risk analysis
Re-development of contaminated land	depending of type of previous activity (whether it required EIA, IPPC and similar permits) and level of contamination protective zones in neighbourhood Risk analysis size threshold
Others (please justify):	Airports Extremely high buildings Artificial turfgrass fields Cumulative regional Impact Assessment prior to new approvals gas compressor stations Major wind farms Production of plastics or plastic products Project types should not have to be specified in a list. EIA should be made for all kinds of projects that might significantly impact the environment. the small facilities covered by the directive on control of risks Wind farms. This project type is in the Espoo Convention list and the amount of these projects is increasing.
	Projects that might significantly impact the environment. Authorities should decide which ones. The developer is fully responsible and has got to have the necessary environmental knowledge to inform the authorities.

16. QUESTION 16: MERGING THE TWO ANNEXES OF EIA-DIRECTIVE

Wording of the question

16. In the EU Directive the list of project categories is divided into Annex I and Annex II (categories listed in Annex I demand mandatory EIA, whereas for projects listed in Annex II, the Member States (MSs) determine whether they are likely to have significant effects on the environment). The Commission's last review of the EIA Directive¹ stated that some MSs see the possibility of a more harmonised application of the Directive across the MSs by merging the two Annexes into one single list with mandatory EIA thresholds for each project category.

Do you think this would be a recommendable approach?

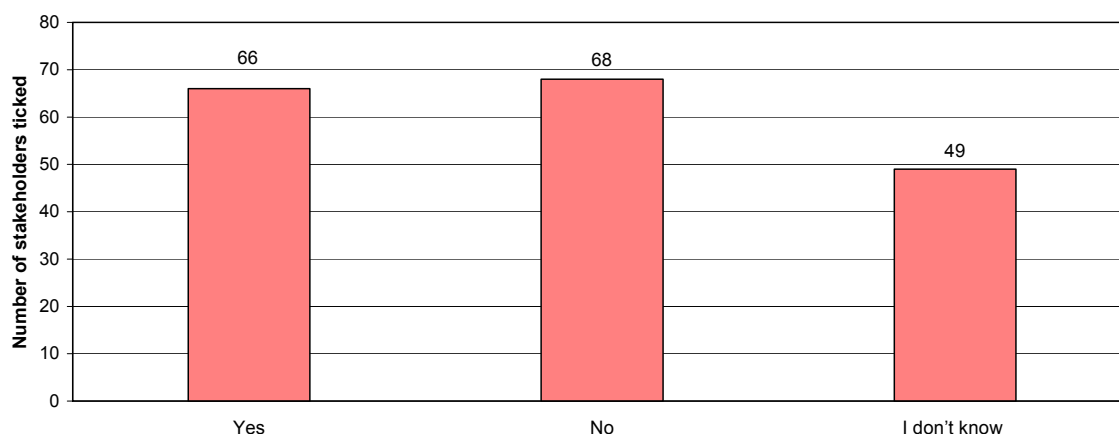
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

Please explain your judgment:

Results

MERGING THE TWO ANNEXES OF EIA-DIRECTIVE

Question asked: Do you think, merging of the two Annexes would be a recommendable approach?



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;
one answer was allowed

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¹ REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the Application and Effectiveness of the EIA Directive (Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Directive 97/11/EC): How successful are the Member States in implementing the EIA Directive.

Explanation

- For some activities/project categories which are included into Annex I and Annex II, there is appropriate different environmental impact assessment.
- ... because of minimising political influence, but significance of environmental impacts cannot easily be addressed by (simple) criteria or thresholds
- 1/ it is better than the case-by-case assessment, 2/ it will be the same assessment for all MSs
- According to our opinion, it doesn't make any sense to merge the two annexes into one single list with mandatory EIA thresholds for each project category, because:- The nature of the Annex I projects is more complicated than projects in Annex II;- The environmental impacts, caused by Annex I projects regarding its nature, magnitude, incidence, duration, etc, are naturally distinct from projects in Annex II., In such cases, Annex I projects valuation requests a long period for technical appreciation.
- Allowing individual MSs to judge whether projects are likely to have significant effects has resulted in potentially damaging projects 'slipping through the net', therefore this approach would give better direction and reduce the risk of damaging projects being approved without proper assessment.
- Annex II projects may require EIA. By merging them into Annex 1, this means that EIA is mandatory if thresholds are exceeded or significant effects are likely, thus being simpler than the existing Annex II system which is not clear. Screening and scoping should be used to determine if an EIA is required in all project cases which is precautionary.
- Because ENV. Impact is not a flat level for all types of projects . Such a merge will create a bureaucratic perception for the authorising bodies -will become indifferent!!!
- Because of differences in the geography, the climate, the environment
- Case by case decisions for Annex II projects are often appropriate, best fitting and not too complex.
- Circumstances and project characters in different countries can be very different. Possibility to make national judgement as well is very much needed, therefore it is very good to have two lists.. Pointless EIA processes diminish very much the true value of this important tool. Therefore, it should be used with thorough consideration. Nevertheless, the Finnish EIA procedure is so heavy that it's by no means a tool to be used for all kinds of projects. The environmental permit procedure also requires quite extensive clearances and studies and EIA should be used for such cases so that it can really add value to the process.
- Clearer balance across thresholds could assist some scenario notably trans-boundary impact, ie the differing interpretation across nations bordering the Wadden Sea re agriculture (Joe Weston, Oxford Brookes's studies)
- Conditions within each country are different
- Cuts out wrangling as to whether a project has significant impacts
- Different countries have different necessities and characteristics.
- Different thresholds in MS on EIA's for farming/livestock
- EIA is the only tool we have for the moment that could safeguard the environment, human health and the quality of life. Its cost is very low for any development. Applying to all major development through a harmonized way while strengthening quality, threshold, independency and therefore effectivity issues are considered as very important.
- EIA works well in Germany. The approach above would arise new resistances against EIA.
- For better view on the list
- In order to simplify it

- Harmonisation might fail considering national/local circumstances
- Harmonisation of legislation is a good idea. Specifying project types in a list is not, though (see above).
- I agree with this idea, because it has positive effect on participation of the general public on the decision process within all member states. According to my own experience, also "easy" projects – listed in Annex II with low impact were improved by the public within EIA procedure.
- I do not see the need for that much harmonisation. Each country could decide on its own.
- I do support this approach because it will be a more straight forward process and it will also provide fair economic competition for the developer on an EU scale
- I do not believe in the possibility to get thresholds, I think a better idea would be to have an Annex II project called: All other projects that can have an adverse impact to the environment or human health
- I do not see any problem with the two current annexes.
- I think one would be adding more loopholes to the Directive and certain abuses such as the practice of salami slicing would be increased.
- I think one would be adding more loopholes to the Directive and certain abuses such as the practice of salami slicing would be increased.
- In our country, both lists are already joint because of vulnerable environment (Plant capacities with the mandatory EIA are lower than in the EU directive)
- In practice, there are no significant differences on EIS preparation or EIA procedures.
- in this way, major thresholds regarding all EIA situations could be tackled more efficiently since the doubts created by a second list would be omitted. In other words, the first list is more effective than the second for the simple reason that all EIA's are tackled with greater attention since they have mandatory measures.
- Including more project types into mandatory category would increase the number of projects to be subject to EIA process. This would lead to problems to have people participate in EIA.
- It could simplify the legislation.
- It depends on the type and size of the project and on how sensitive the area is. It must be assessed on a case by case basis.
- It depends. Most projects need an EIA, but the extent of the EIA must be related to a specific project. It would be good to have every project type in one list if this does not exclude many other smaller projects.
- It has 2 different sides: 1. It's easier to make decisions from the municipalities' point of view (especially for them, because they lack of knowledge and courage to take decisions when there are no thresholds). 2. But at the same time, every MS is different – if some kind of threshold is suitable for one country, it doesn't mean that the same is suitable for other(s). Therefore, it's too risky to make similar lists of thresholds in all MSs (there must be possibility to choose its own thresholds).
- It is already difficult to apply the existing situation correctly. Main additions should be on prestudies
- It must be possible to take special local conditions into consideration
- It seems sensible to have a definitive list of Annex 1 projects, and a further list of possible EIA developments in Annex 2 as there are often no clear cut cases for EIA and is somewhat dependent on the individual schemes.
- It should be clearer
- It should be uniform for all EU members

- It will be impossible to find acceptable (from the environmental protection point of view) thresholds for all types of projects because lobbying from the industry will be too strong; in many cases, thus this would weaken the existing level of env. protection.
- It won't be flexible to take decision about EIA anymore. Some cases where EIA now is obligatory might be "lost"
- It works as it is
- Lean and predictable procedures
- Makes the EIA process more equal and balanced between Member States
- Making amendments to the Directive might seem straightforward in Brussels but causes uncertainty, additional work and usually confusion in practice. Making amendments to domestic legislation takes an enormous amount of work. Unless the directive is causing very major environmental problems it should not be amended.
- Many member states apply further thresholds to Annex 2 projects or use criteria to indicate when an EIA would be required. The merging of the two Annexes and the subsequent use of thresholds could result in a confusion between European and national thresholds. Harmonisation of thresholds between members states may not always be desirable as the environment in different member states may have different levels of sensitivity.
- Many projects are critical only in certain circumstances. There certainly is no sense in demanding EIA for i.e.. sea ports in Austria. Generally, the Commission should leave more space for national implementation
- National differences of Laws
- One list is better for the first screening, leaving the full opportunity to apply for running a risk analysis based approach
- One list is better for the first screening, leaving the full opportunity to apply for running a risk analysis based approach
- One single list (only) with mandatory would create disharmony not a harmonised action.
- The impacts of projects depend on the type of the project (human activity) and the site. I prefer the case by case examination.
- Proponent often withholds values of criterias or presents the values close to limit.
- REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the Application and Effectiveness of the EIA Directive (Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Directive 97/11/EC): How successful are the Member States in implementing the EIA Directive
- SEA and eg. general environmental regulation are enough
- Some interpretation is required. It would be very difficult to define a mechanical approach to determining EIA projects. Dialogue with relevant authorities is often important in the process.
- some projects can be less or more harmful in one country then in others, because e.g. soil condition, size of the country etc.
- Some projects with low impacts would not be submitted to a mandatory EIA
- Some projects cannot be classified by thresholds. In the new approach there is no possibility to include site characteristics to decision.
- Standard application for all member states
- The answer is yes, if there would still be a case by case examination for projects that might still create possible adverse environmental impacts. The answer is no, if the idea would be that this list would be definitive because list II gives the MSs possibility to take their own environment into account. Impacts always occur in a combination of the project and the environment and the activity level in different countries do vary.

- The approach of definition of thresholds is too rigid because each screening case is different and usually needs an individual judgement.
- The categories have stood the test of time.
- The conditions of different countries varies too much.
- The dimension of the project is a very important aspect regarding the generated impacts, for several projects. The location of the project considering its proximity to sensitive areas (from environmental or social perspectives) also is an important criteria for impact significance.
- The environmental circumstances and the state of the environment (pollution, stress) varies very much from state to state
- The harmony across the MSs should contribute to simplify the whole process, for example, the use of foreign specialists. In terms of project development, it should also contribute to equalize the opportunities across MSs.
- The individual situation can be considered in a better way
- The legislation would be clearer if the activities, listed in Annex II were not regarded to be important (as concerning EIA) in our national legislation
- The Member States should determine subjects to the Article 2 (3) for projects listed in revised Annex II, through thresholds or criteria set by the MS. There are different conditions in MS.
- One should keep the possibility of taking local conditions and/or cumulative effects of projects (open list) into account.
- The problem of harmonisation in legislation will not be solved by making more transparent laws but by using the same interpretation of these laws. Inspectors of different MS will have to work together and interchange (harmonised) information.
- The situation can vary according to the countries
- The thresholds often tend to be arbitrary and are difficult to apply to all situations. Therefore, the lowest common denominator will be a requirement to undertake an EIA when one may not be needed.
- The whole EIA procedure would be simpler and shorter
- There are big differences between projects from the point of environmental impacts. A different approach is better from my point of view.
- There are too many differences in site conditions and in kinds of project forms. Therefore, single considerations are necessary.
- There is an overly wide discrepancy between the numbers of EIAs carried out in the different MSs. Such discrepancies should not exist. A better harmonisation also reduces the chances of preferential treatment for certain developers. We think that this happens in Malta.
- This could be more protective for the environment and the human health to introduce one single list with mandatory EIA thresholds for each project category. The best way would be to apply the EIA and HIA methodological recommendations of the Directive.
- This would be a more harmonized and helpful approach for the implementation of Espoo Convention and Kiev Protocol.
- Thresholds are already in place for Annex II projects so such a change is meaningless
- To certain extent, perhaps specifying thresholds beyond which EIA would be mandatory, but element of discretion should remain for developments below those thresholds.
- Too bureaucratic, there ought to remain an area for individual assessment
- To ensure the consistency of the approach and to promote a European wide basis for screening
- Too restrictive
- Unified approach
- Unified approach – with same threshold applying across the whole EU makes more sense

- Uniformity
- The very different social and ecological environments in the MS do not solely allow a distinction based on the size or the impact and not on the type of the project
- We need screenings of small projects in or close to vulnerable surroundings
- Would generate a higher level of legal certainty
- Would improve consistency and remove any debate.
- Yes, but this is only one approach. We should also be able to work backwards based on the impact of receptors regardless of the type of development.
- The division of the projects into two lists makes the application of the Law easier. The issue of thresholds should also be examined thoroughly, as there are large differences between the MS, due to size, local specifications, etc.

17. QUESTION 17: GOOD PRACTICES

Wording of the question

17. Are you aware of any good practices in your country:

a) in relation to how to address and include human health issues in EIAs?

☐ Yes ☐ As far as I know, there is no good example ☐ I don't know

b) for identifying, describing and assessing risks connected to extraordinary hazards in EIAs?

☐ Yes ☐ As far as I know, there is no good example ☐ I don't know

If yes, could you please indicate references to the relevant EIA document(s) and/or relevant contact person(s):

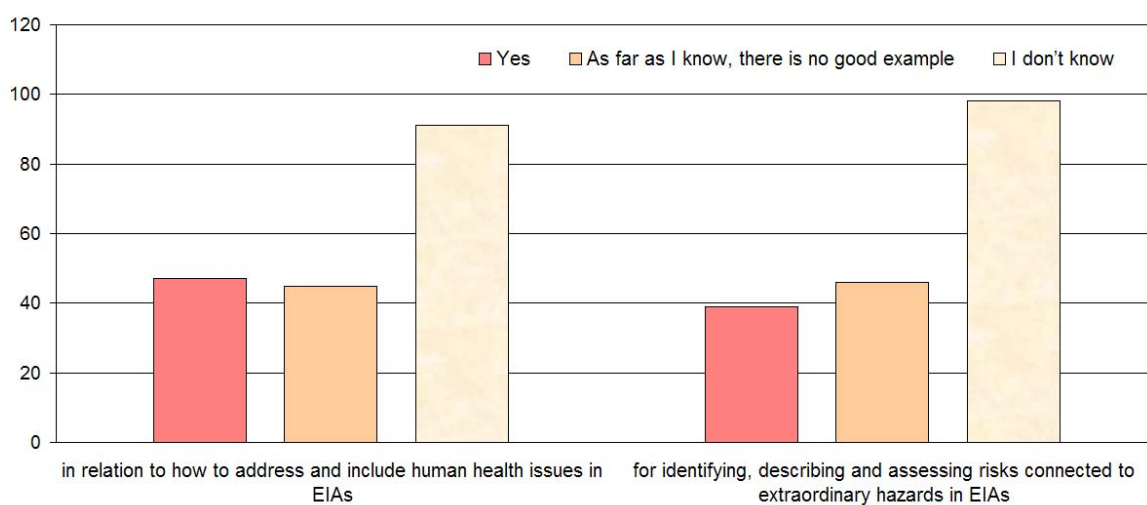
EIA document(s):

Contact person(s) (name, telephone, e-mail):

Results

GOOD PRACTICES

Question asked: Are you aware of any good practices in your country:



Questionnaire answered by 183 EIA-experts in the EU Member States;

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18. QUESTION 18: GENERAL IMPRESSION ABOUT QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EIAs

Wording of the question

General impression about quality and effectiveness of EIAs?

Results

- In Belgium the EIA are both effective and of good quality.
-"only good projects survive"; ... "UVP = unheimlich viel Papier" --> EIA brings more progress in the amount of paper than in the quality of decision; EIA has to be understood as a learning process, not as the method to "jump" at once to a state of sustainability,
- General impression: good; level of EIA-knowledge of the authorities concerned differs a lot
- A full range of impressions. This should answer EIA end users.
- A lot of space for improvement in particular on the health aspects
- A tool that is not working as well as it should. In Sweden, because we do too many and there is no time and money to keep up the quality for all of them. More effort should be spent where it is really needed.
- A vast improvement from 10 to 15 years ago, but the quality still varies greatly.
- Acceptable
- After 10 years of EIA law, a decision-making process has still not reflected the EIA statements equally.
- All proceedings are in one
- An important process that is in need of integration with other assessment procedures.
- Appropriate
- Appropriate to the general conditions (political, economic, cultural) in the Czech Republic
- As I am involved with them, they have a place in the industry and make good business sense when reviews of activities are carried out with realistic expectations. However, if thresholds are set too low, the very act of needing EIA could be too onerous for some situations.
- As I have said above, a current research project is observing the quality and effectiveness of EIAs. It is due to report in the summer.
- As part of an evaluation of EIA in Denmark, we analysed quality and effectiveness. A summary of the evaluation can be read at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/eia_outcome.pdf
- At the moment, the quality of EIA's in Estonia is quite low, especially concerning risks for human health and cumulative and wide impacts of the projects. There are few independent EIA experts; usually the conclusions of EIA match the wishes of the developer. The EIA's give answers for methods on how to lessen and relieve the negative impacts, but have very seldom been the basis for a negative decision for a project. However, There is still hope that practice will improve (especially as there is a new EIA law enforced in April 2005).
- Average
- Can be better

- Cyprus has a good experience from the implementation of EIA .The first step of the process which is submission , evaluation and approval is quite effective and well perceived by society. However the bottleneck in the whole process is the post approval monitoring which is rather weak and needs to be further developed and strengthened. The second issue is the lack of real integration of Health Impact assessment into the EIA. At EU level, this is the right moment to be promoted, as links between Health and Environment have been recently brought to focus by the adoption of Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe 2004-2010. To this effect, the appropriate approach, methodology, health criteria and tools have to be developed to allow for a holistic approach, understanding of the interactions and a practical and rather harmonize the implementation. Environmental Health professionals have to play a role in this process. The risks of adverse health effects and the costs of avoiding such risks have to be incorporated into the EIA process.
- Differs widely. In any case, the necessity for EIAs leads to constant evolution in knowledge of methodologies for impact assessment in general and within specific fields. Even if one EIA itself is seen as a singular case, this might not have been effective because neither the developer nor the authority cared about it, EIA as a policy and administrative instrument in the whole is absolutely important for the systematic assessment of environmental and health risks, the development and communication of good practice (e.g. on methodology and potential mitigation measures) and constant progress in the field.
- During the adequate duration of the environmental impact assessment of the projects, we can see consecutively an increase in the quality of the projects and also in the whole EIA process.
- EIA is only good in the prescribed form for direct polluters (factories etc.) but not good for e.g. shopping malls, offices and does not consider the social impacts.
- EIA should only deal with health impacts where there is a quantifiable pathway. Most health issues should be picked up under the umbrella of 'amenity'. For mental health issues in which there is a conflict between scientific data and 'perception', the scientific approach should always prevail.
- EIA under the European model is partially hindered by the fact that EIS tend to cover all potential impact agendas regardless of true significance. In the US and Canadian models, there is more scope for the homing in of specific issues and the centring of the EIS around what is deemed of particular risk. For specific hazardous sites and developments, notably those initiated by a nation state, this may allow for a more focused and participatory evaluation of true risk in areas such as health
- In Sweden, EIAs are generally of high quality. One problem is the too little focus on the important issues (scoping) and also that even small projects require complete EIAs (screening). This means, that small impacts and small projects tend to hide the really important impacts and projects.
- EIAs are only effective if a follow up procedure is exercised for the implementation of the indicated measures
- EIAs are generally effective at getting the developer to consider the environmental effects of a development. However, their effectiveness as a communication tool to decision makers and the public is hampered by the length of documents. Both consultants and competent authorities appear to be reluctant to scope the EIA to the significant effects and therefore, they try to cover all issues within an EIS.

- The quality of EIAs is improving but there is little control on how the findings of the EIA process are respected at project implementation. In addition, the awareness on how the EIA could be a tool for improvement of the projects is still low. The new environmental act introduced a revision of EIA by specialists, which just increased the costs and confusion about required content.
- EIAs are not always effective because the authorities appear to treat them as 'necessary evils'.
- EIAs procedure is performed at high level in Slovakia, the strengthening of incorporation of human health aspects is needed.
- EISs are often standardised ("copy and paste") and do not consider public participation. The effectiveness of EIA can be significantly improved.
- EIS's quality varies between very good and very bad, mainly depending on the EIA team. The importance of EIS for the project approval also depends strongly on the government interest on the project, i.e. if the government has high interest in developing the project, the EIS quality required is sometimes compromised. Quality and Effectiveness of Public Consultancy is also compromised by the interest local governments have in the projects and their position towards them. If the local government is interested in a project development, the advertisement of Public Consultancy is sometimes restrained, while if it is against the project, Public Consultancy is strongly advertised, meetings to talk about the project are carried out and collection of citizen signatures regarding the approval of documents to decline the project is organized.
- Essential
- Generally, good quality in description of existing conditions and effects of planned project on natural environment, effectiveness vary. The earlier EIA in the planning process is carried out, the more effective it generally is.
- Generally of good quality after independent review and effective, regularly often leading to worthily and environmentally more friendly project designs
- Generally good law of EIA, missing details about assessment of health
- Good
- Good for small projects, very good for big projects – motorways or plants
- Good quality and effective
- Good, but sometimes formal
- Good, but the process must be developed in a sustainable way.
- I am happy that I have my job – EIA, is being administered by state administration in the field of environment and other fields and also helps investor to know that this activity does not harm environment, when it fulfills all remarks. And also citizens can say their view.
- I believe that EIAs are not helping to save the environment enough, more could be done. And I also believe that there should not be so many EIAs made every year in Sweden. If we wouldn't do so many EIAs, the quality and effectiveness in the EIA-process and system would be higher.
- I believe that EIAs in the UK are of a good quality but huge variations in quality exists (as I have reviewed others). Effectiveness in developing EMPs varies from client to client based on costs constraints and whether facilitating development (i.e. when developer is not the contractor and in outline applications).
- I believe there is still a long way to go until the majority of the developers see EIA as a useful tool in proposing a more acceptable, environmentally sound project rather than as yet another obstacle in the way of 'progress'. This is reflected in the poor quality of many EIAs and the

variability of quality between sectors. The effectiveness of EIA also depends on the attitude of the developer – an EIA Directive-compliant EIA and even a higher quality EIA does not necessarily mean that EIA is effective. The lack of objectivity in EIAs (to a greater or lesser extent, developers pay consultants for an EIA report that gives them the findings they need) is another problem. Having said that, much progress has been made since the EIA Directive was brought in, so hopefully the quality of EIAs will continue to improve. The setting up of an independent body to advise on EIA and monitor reports, as in the Netherlands, would be a good step towards improvement in the UK but we know that is unlikely to happen for the foreseeable future.

- "I potentially consider EIA as one of the most dynamic tools that environmental scientists could have at their disposal, together with the SEA. Saying that, I must confess that the application of EIA in Cyprus although it has a positive impact on the protection of the environment, if compared with the time we did not have such a legislation, it remains for me at a very low level of effectiveness. A few of the reasons for such a statement are: 1) The scientists that prepare the EIA are not independent, they are being paid after they finish their job, by their client and in reality only if their client (the developer) accepts their study! Otherwise not only they may lose their money but they may also find themselves in the position of being widely known in the market as project killers!! Therefore, having the developer as their client (and not environment), most of the scientists tend to help their client to get the necessary permissions from the different environmental evaluation committees, as if they were their defence lawyers. Therefore, independency should become one of the major issues to be addressed by all of us in the near future. By the existing situation, scientists that really care for the environment and want to prepare real EIAs are phased out either because of their high prices due to the necessity for high quality job (dispersion models, on site audits, monitoring, risk analysis, possible epidemiological studies etc) or they are being blacklisted in the market because they do not try to help their clients (developers)!! 2) Prevention and mitigation measures are not audited for their application during and after the implementation of the development and the EIA although it should be useful as a whole study and as a public document and be adopted by the developer as such, town planning department has the authority to pick a few of the measures proposed in the study and ask the developer to only apply them. 3) The quality of the EIA remains low. Etc
- I believe that EU should ask experienced environmental consultants from the private sector to assist in finding practical ways to overcome the above and many other obstacles in order to raise the effectiveness of both EIA and SEA.
- I only work with EIAs for Windpower, and my answers to most questions above only evaluate this aspect of EIAs in Sweden. In this context, there is an obvious problem, the environmental benefits (reduction of greenhouse gases, acidification etc) do not get any bonus in the EIA evaluation, since the scale is only negative. So "virtual" impacts, like noise, shadow flicker and visual impact, are given absurdly strong weight (although there is no risk whatsoever for impacts on human health -noise at max 40 dBA for example). In Sweden, many projects are stopped for these reasons, and, in this context, EIAs as they are applied, are counter-productive. Establishing a sustainable power system is stopped (or at least delayed) in the name of environment protection! Those who make these evaluations (authorities) are lawyers, biologists (protecting "nature" from technological artefacts) or health officers, who have no understanding in the ecological system whatsoever.
- I think that the level of EIAs has improved over the years. As regards to their effectiveness, I think that now they have been accepted as being part of the development process although, in

some cases, the time between application and decision has considerably increased (years). This is mainly due to the fact that the local planning authority (MEPA) is rather intransigent and keeps coming up with further requests. I think that they should change their attitude and review EIAs in a different manner than they do today.

- I think the way we are doing EIA complies with and exceeds requirements of current legislation. However, the effectiveness of EIA is lessened by the fact that no monetary valuation is attached to the environment. Hence, decision-making is based on value-judgements of the decision-making persons. If environmental impacts were translated into monetary units all the benefits and costs of a project would be commensurate. At present, financial considerations are much more relevant than environmental considerations. Consequently, if we could express all the costs and benefits of a project in the same units (monetary units) much of the subjectivity in decision-making would be removed, and the environment would be granted much better protection
- I'm working in a country where there are only some big installations (in our country, we have 3 installations who must have IPPC permit), others are medium or small firms and there are not very intensive development going on (since 2001, we have had around 12 EIAs and some SEAs). All I can say is that we don't have big problems with standard EIA, but EIAs related with Natura areas (in our country, we have a lot of Natura sites and our experts have a lack of knowledge for that) and also in our country, we do not have good guidance(s) on how to assess impacts and how to make supervision.
- In general, good
- In general, the instrument has improved the protection of valuable nature and the reduction of pollution, and it has highly improved the basis for public debates. There is (of course) a constant need for making the instrument even better.
- In general, EIA's are of good quality. Of course, it depends on the experience of the experts who prepare EIS. There is a bad relationship between EIA and IPPC process. The results of EIA often are not taken into account during the permitting process.
- In the scale from 1-10, average 7. Big, major projects tend to have better quality EIAs than medium or small ones, but not always. Good quality EIAs cost money and how much money the developer wants to put into its EIA definitely has an effect on the quality. It seems that like the EIAs that were made in the early years of EIA, just after the legislation came into force in Finland (1994) in the 90's, they were to some extent better and the developers really were striving to do good work. Now EIA is an everyday life matter and it seems like, at least some developers try to hop over the EIA quality line as low as possible, so no extras are done and favourably a little less than more. On effectiveness, we have good and bad examples. Where the EIA has been integrated into the actual design procedure of the project itself, it always has a better effect on how the actual project turns out to be, compared to cases where it is done only as an appendix or something that is only glued on top of everything because EIA has to be performed. Again, a lot depends on the willingness of the developer whether it sees the possibilities of EIA and the public participation it is offering or not. Of course, there are projects where the environmental protection legislation and other legislation already is so effective and where EIA really cannot add any value. Those are, according to our experience, some industrial projects -changes to the existing situation where the EIA threshold is exceeded but the change is only very minor compared to the size of the existing installation. The change may have mostly beneficial effects to the environment (better technique is taken in the use) and there may not be

any adverse environmental impact from such a change. It is always very frustrating to explain the developer that according to law and EIA directive, you have to do an EIA. For those kind of situations, there should be a mechanism in the EIA-directive to exclude nationally such projects from EIA. I

- In UK, EIA are still seen as a hoop that you have to jump through to get approval rather than good environmental business practice
- It could be improved in health and social aspects
- It depends on the EIA. Some EIAs are not up to standard. What is lacking is the fact that the general public is not aware that the process of EIAs exists in the country despite the fact that the main Environmental and planning Authority has a part of its website dedicated to this. I think this is due to the lack of widespread promotion on EIAs. EIAs often tackle purely natural environmental issues. Social issues tend to focus more on employment, noise, sound and visual impact and to a lesser extent health issues. Indirect health issues such as long term hazards and the actual decommissioning of the site are rarely tackled.
- It depends on the persons involved (the applicant, the person acting in the authority and on the amount of public participation)
- It depends on where you compare!; on the one hand, there are many good quality EIA-cases and even project-types, and on the other hand, there are some bad examples too and some general quality-development issues
- It has grown into an administrative formality where the real risk issues are not treated but only some cheap, softening issues are proposed, time frame isn't practical for the industry
- It is good as a part in pre-project documentation
- It is quite good in Transport infrastructure and Energy industry and infrastructure in which sectors I am mostly working as EIA consultant.
- It is said that the EIA procedures are too complicated and last too long, the quality of EIS is usually poor. Nowadays, beyond the EIA, there are some other effective tools for protecting the environment .
- It is very diverse. Many EIAs for infrastructure are very good. Big industries often use a competent consultant who gives a good EIA. However, smaller projects often make a fairly simple EIA. It also depends on the authority making the approval of the EIA.
- It works well
- It is very often difficult to understand which are the most important environmental questions. All impacts are presented as if they were of equal importance.
- Just a formal thing. Everything is a power of money. If the investor has enough money and knows the right person, EIA process does not influence anything.
- Low to moderate, relatively high standards for big projects, especially concerning infrastructure
- Medium quality and some reasonable degree of effectiveness (influencing the project development and providing public participation opportunities Contributing to the selection of alternatives, to changes in project design or even leading to refusal of approval)
- Moderate
- Mostly, EIAs provide competent authorities with sufficient information to motivate the decision made. For about a third of the EIA-reports, the Commission suggests to generate additional

information before deciding on the project. EIA is firmly embedded in spatial planning and decision making about environmental permits.

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- Mostly good
- Not good enough, very superficial
- Not sufficient
- There is often a lack of independency in the EIA process – therefore the scientific quality of EIAs is suffering.
- There should be a next EIA revision on health
- Poor
- Poor – but much improved in the past 3-5 years
- Poor at national level – formal, with mere bureaucratic control, without clear guidance, without any info-material for the public (NGOs produced one handbook and a leaflet in 2002, in 2004 EIA procedure was changed), minimized opportunities for participation, no mandatory public hearing – almost every application (99,5 %) gets an environmental consent (although some investors removed their application before negative decision was made); there is no regular evaluation of the processes, documents, etc.;
- Poor quality
- Poor, due to the lack of capacity to implement the EIAs recommendations during the construction/implementation phases.
- Quality and effectiveness of EIAs on a case by case basis.
- Quality and effectiveness of EIAs are rather good. Incorporation of health issues is poor but some practice in HIA already exists. The EIA system needs to be strengthened in the contexts of HIA.
- Quality and effectiveness of EIAs are rather good. Incorporation of health issues is poor but some practice in HIA already exists. The EIA system needs to be strengthened in the contexts of HIA.
- Quality assurance is inadequate and EIAs are of different quality; some of them biased or substandard.
- Quality depends very much on the EIA coordinator. However, over the years, MEPA has certainly noticed an improvement in EIA quality.
- Fluctuating quality, effectiveness quite good
- Quality is especially good if we consider the given time to carry out the EIA; Publicity is taken care of and adequate.
- Quality is variable, depends on the capability of those undertaking the assessment. Effectiveness similarly depends on the scrutiny applied by the planning authority.
- Quality is variable, they are generally far too long and do little to influence the design of the project.

- Quality is very different; low level mainly on EIA for urban / space planning or projects by local governments
- Quality of EIAs very different from case to case; project solicitors try to escape from EIAs
- Quality of identification of impacts is quite good. The main problem remains the definition of assessment field and the methodologies to use.
- Quality tends to be mixed although it is improving. Effectiveness depends on the quality of those reviewing the EIS which, again, tends to be mixed. Generally, the effectiveness of EIAs is now getting better as the decision-makers seek to ensure that impact predictions are checked through post-development monitoring.
- Quite Good. The authorities make heavier demands on risk and health issues since the new environmental law came in 1998.
- Quite high quality
- Relatively good, but of course can be improved.
- Rigid requirements on content of EIA documentation often lead to "filling up" chapters, which actually are not relevant to assess activities (and contribute to the understanding of EIA as bureaucratic process). That is the reason I am personally concerned with the effort of integration of "new approaches" into EIA , e.g. "health impact assessment", or "social impact assessment". I would prefer to struggle for more meaningful and more flexible (and even not so voluminous) documentation prior to further compulsory parts of it.
- Sometimes, new good solutions or alternatives are found, and even selected for implementation. EIA as a process is quite convincing and sometimes helps developers to reach acceptance.
- System is basically sound, but practice uneven, with too many developers still seeing EIA as apologia for their schemes, rather than rigorous assessment of impacts.
- The effectiveness of EIA often depends on the legal environmental standards, which are obligatory for the decision
- The EIAs are still looked upon as a formality and not a useful tool to help the development of the project. There's much room for improvement. The main problem reside in the formal appreciation of the EIAs, and the lack of experience among the Ministry technicians responsible for the evaluation.
- The EIAs which are carried out on most projects are of a good standard especially on large projects. The only problem is that the scoping is done by the Competent Authority in this case MEPA who also reviews the EIA's. The authority usually cuts and pastes the terms of reference used in another similar project, and sometimes the terms of reference are not all relevant to the project itself. The scoping phase should be done by the EIA consultants . Decisions also take forever, and that the authority does not want to take many decisions and request an enormous amount of information before they actually do, sometimes delaying funding opportunities and targets.
- The idea of EIA is good and most aspects are addressed in a better way than health and risk issues (for example nature values, land use, water, pollutants).
- The insufficient definition of the term "risk" often leads to misunderstandings. I hope, that the development of such a definition is included in the scope of your work. what "risk" means from the technical or organizational point of view (eg. the initial events, the progress of accident

conditions, the stress of facilities or its components, the response of constructions, the issues of elasticity and plasticity etc.) must be clearly stated, as well as what "risk" means from the environmental point of view (the consequences of accidents on the environment) and what "risk" means from the methodology point of view (eg. Health Risk Assessment). The technical point of view must be strictly excluded from the EIA process and must be solved in the relevant processes (e.g. Nuclear Safety licensing or Physical Protection licensing etc.).

- The lack of follow-up procedures for post-decision monitoring of the implementation of development can mean that the mitigation measures are not enacted as promised, putting into question the point of the EIA, and relies upon good practice by developers to keep their promises. SEA Directive requires monitoring and follow-up reporting, so why not EIA project?
- The quality is standardised, effectiveness sometimes good, often is predicated on many things, especially the later phases of project, permissions and so on
- The quality of EIA studies in Finland have a good average level in my opinion. The effectiveness can be questioned. It very seldom comes out how – if at all – the EIA has actually had effects on project design. The value of EIA is increasing awareness of environmental issues of projects in general and it offers better possibilities for public participation. Public participation, however, is often very low. The Finnish EIA procedure is very heavy and time consuming and as it is, it has already suffered of lowered appreciation by many interested parties (also the public and authorities). Therefore, one should carefully consider what kind of projects should really apply EIA. There should not be too many types and thresholds should not be too low and there should be room for case-by-case consideration.
- There are areas, which have not specific guidelines. how to assess them as part of EIA process.
- There are a few gap spaces, which must be solved and it depends on experiences
- They are still not up to the desired level but getting better.
- Variable
- Very variable – from good to poor
- When EIA is required as mandatory for small/simple projects, there is not a serious application and this causes a risk for bad reputation of EIA as a costly procedure, just a paper product etc.
- Good for major projects, sufficient for small projects, but it has to be improved of medium-sized projects.