

(IMP)³
 IMProving the IMPlmentation of Environmental IMPact Assessment

Goals and methodical approach

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 Bildung, Wissenschaft
 und Kultur

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 Sixth Framework Programme



The EIA Directive 85/337/EEC (amended 97/11/EC)

- ▶ shall apply to the **assessment** of the environmental effects
- ▶ of those public and private **projects**
- ▶ which are likely to have **significant effects on the environment**.

Before consent is given to such a project, an **environmental impact assessment (EIA)** has to be carried out.

It shall identify, describe and assess, the effects of a project on:

- human beings, fauna and flora;
- soil, water, air, climate and the landscape;
- material assets and the cultural heritage;
- the interaction between the factors mentioned

How successful are the Member States in implementing the EIA Directive?

Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the council on the Application and Effectiveness of the EIA Directive revealed that there are still various weaknesses in the Member States implementation, as

- ▶ **Health aspects:** inconsistently addressed in EIAs
- ▶ **Risk assessment:** inconsistently addressed in EIAs, often seen as separate from the EIA process
- ▶ **Thresholds/Criteria:** large differences in determination of thresholds/criteria for an obligatory EIA or for a case-by-case examination in specific project categories

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6th framework programme of the EU for research, technological development and demonstration activities

Scientific support to policies (SSP): respond to scientific and technological needs of the policies of the Community

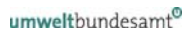
in co-operation with DG Environment

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The (IMP)3-team



► Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning, Austria



► Federal Environment Agency, Austria



► Wales Centre for Health Business Unit, UK



► Nordregio, Sweden



► Research Centre for Territory, Transports and Environment, Portugal



► Slovak Environmental Agency, Slovakia

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Goals of (IMP)3

(IMP)3 analyses / reviews EIA in the EU and compares it with two Non-European states (USA, CAN)

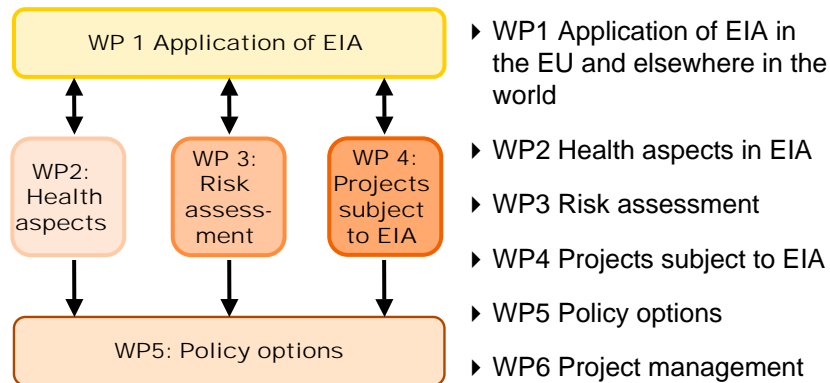
(IMP)3 focuses on:

- a better incorporation of **human health** aspects into EIA
- a better integration and more consistency of **risk assessments**, regarding various sources of risks (as e.g. natural hazards, accidents, sabotage)
- a survey of **project types subject to EIA**

Policy options for each of the 3 themes are developed and assessed by a **SWOT-analysis**

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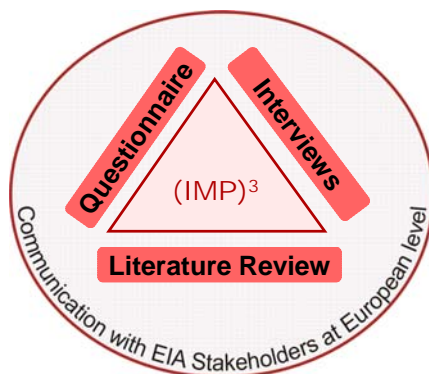
Work-packages of (IMP)³



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The triangle approach of data analysis

Main task:
gathering **relevant information**



- ▶ **Literature review:**
qualitative data concerning legal basis
- ▶ **Questionnaire:**
quantitative data about the actual EIA-application
- ▶ **Interviews:**
qualitative data about the estimation of the strong and weak points of EIA-application

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Literature review

Main task:

to reflect the legal basis and the relevant discussions in the scientific world of EIA policy and application

Scope of study:

- ▶ The review covers the relevant literature, the main EU-documents and selected national laws concerning the application of EIA

but:

- ▶ no juristic analysis of the legislative situation on state level in scientific terms



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The EIA-stakeholder-approach

Main task:

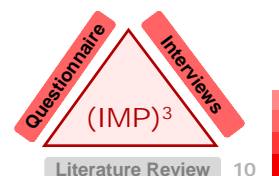
to get an overview of the experience of the actual EIA-applicants

5 Stakeholder-groups

- national governments
- regional bodies with competence in EIA-issues
- NGOs
- consultants
- other EIA proponents as e.g. scientists

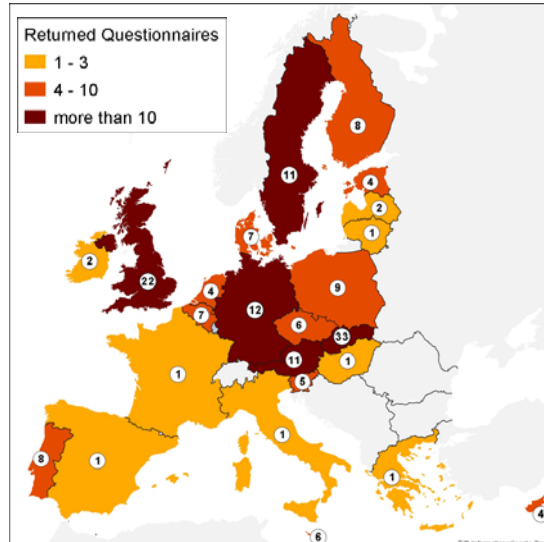
Scope of study

- ▶ Involvement of relevant EIA-stakeholders
- ▶ Database: list of 970 EIA-experts
- ▶ Questionnaire distributed via e-mail
- ▶ but: results do not represent a random sample



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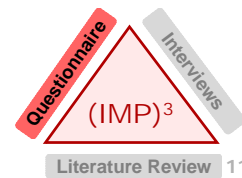
Questionnaire



Language: English
+ covering letter in 9 languages

183 questionnaires
from 24 countries
returned

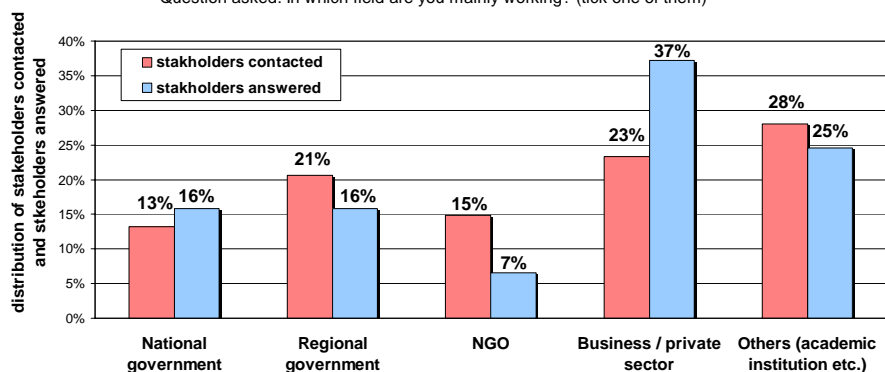
(Return rate = 19%)



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FIELD OF EXPERTISE OF THE STAKEHOLDERS

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



total: 970 stakeholders contacted and 183 stakeholders answered

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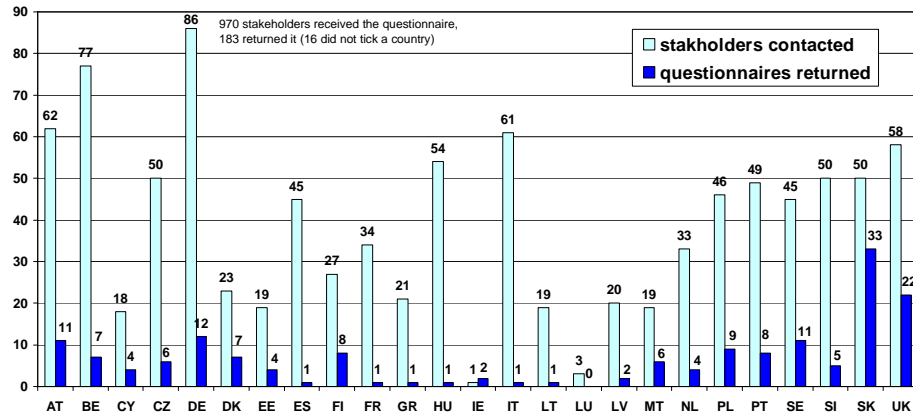


► answers reflect **situation the stakeholders are confronted with day by day**



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QUESTIONNAIRES DISSEMINATED + RETURNED



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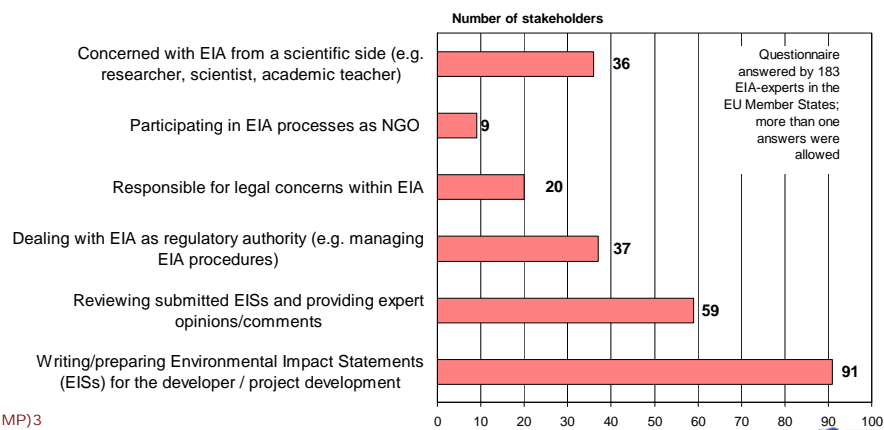
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► answers mirror EIA application
on national / regional level



ROLE OF THE STAKEHOLDERS IN EIA-PROCESS

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



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► answers cover broad range of
different accesses to EIA



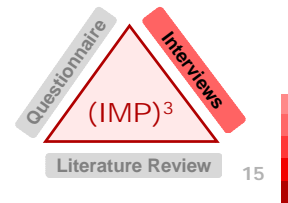
Interviews

Main task:

to get insights into the actual day-to-day difficulties in EIA implementation and a thorough picture of which methods are in use and the pros and cons of different methods

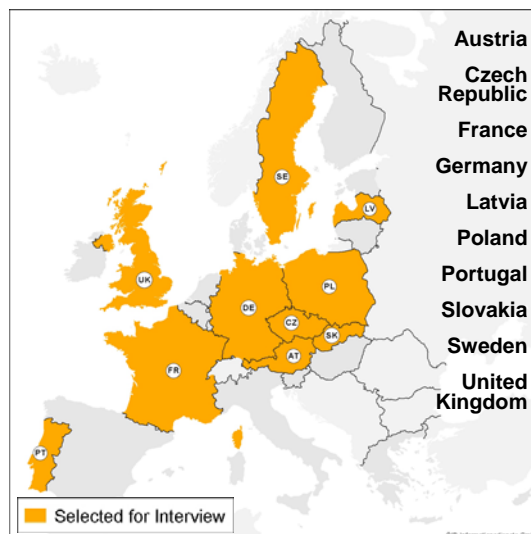
Scope of study:

- ▶ 10 European and 2 Non-European countries were selected
- ▶ Standardized interview guide with open and closed questions
- ▶ The selected interviewees mirror their perception according to EIA-implementation
 - are not a representative sample



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Selection criteria for interviews

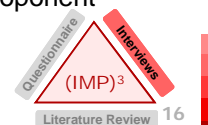


Geography

- ▶ “new” / “old” EU-Member States (MS)
- ▶ large MS / small MS
- ▶ South / North / East / West of EU

Stakeholder-type

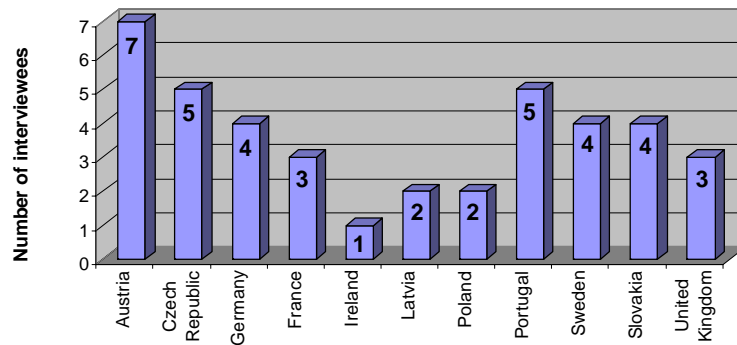
- ▶ national government
- ▶ NGO / consultant
- ▶ regional body / other EIA proponent



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Interviews with EIA Stakeholders in Europe

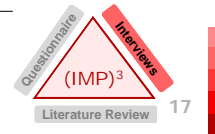
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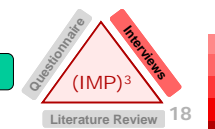
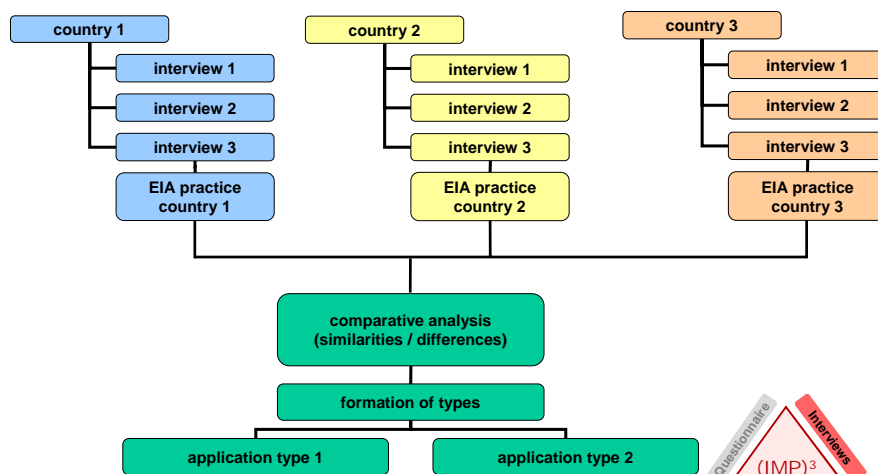
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umweltbundesamt
NORDREGIO
Citta

- 39 interviews with
36 interviewees in Europe and 17 in USA + Canada

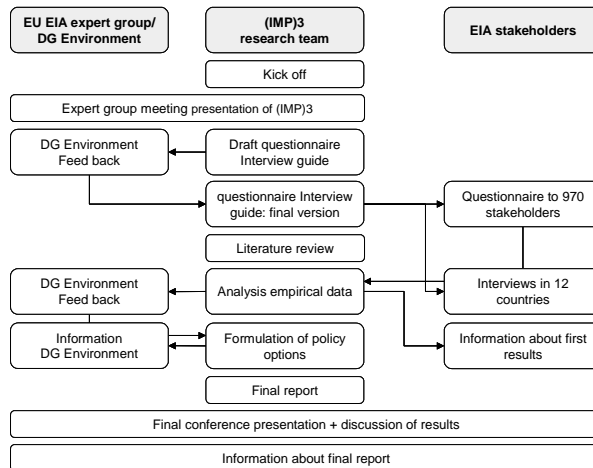


Analysis of interview results

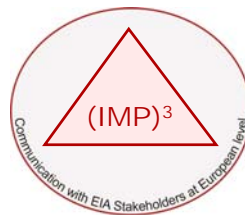


Communication at EU level

(IMP)3 communication process



Main task:
to produce
results that are
useful for policy
development
on EU-level



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11:15: Parallel sessions

- ▶ **Human health:** Room 4
(next to next door)
- ▶ **Risk assessment:** Room 3
(next door)
- ▶ **Projects subject to EIA:** Room 6 (“Hochparterre”)
meeting at 11:10
reception (outside room 2)