



(IMP)³

IMProving the IMPlmentation of Environmental IMPact Assessment

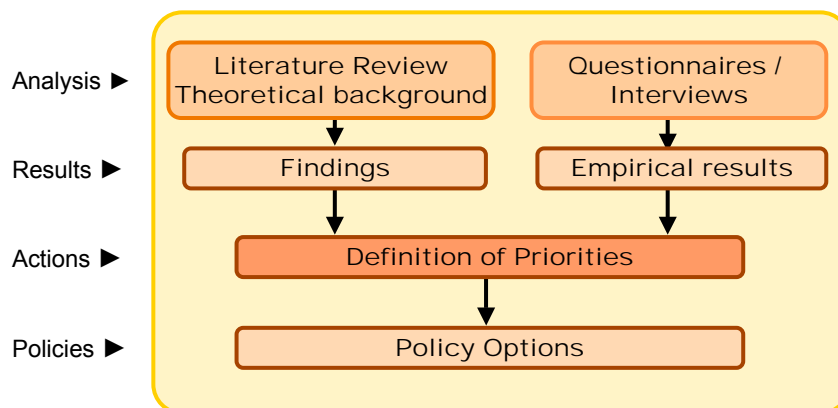
(IMP)³: Results and Policy Options

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From analysis to policies (for each WPI)



Policy options

- ▶ Policy options are inter-related sets of actions **addressed to the EC** and intended to influence national and regional EIA
- ▶ **Different levels of action** with positive and negative effects enabling **step by step** progress from short to long term
 - ▶ From **do nothing** to **major changes** to the Directive
 - ▶ Considering
 - ▶ Guidance
 - ▶ Supportive measures
 - ▶ Regulative and/or legislative measures
- ▶ Open assessment of policy options
 - ▶ **SWOT** analysis

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WP2 – Health aspects in EIA

Objectives of WP2

- ▶ Identify the strengths and weaknesses of **current EIA policy and practice** in the 25 Member States with regards to the assessment of human health impacts
- ▶ Identify the advantages and disadvantages of **integrating** health aspects within EIA versus undertaking **separate and autonomous** HIAs
- ▶ Identify, where possible, **good practice guidelines** and case studies on how human health aspects can be integrated into EIA
- ▶ Present **policy options** to the EC on improving the implementation of EIA in terms of impacts on human health

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Results of WP2

- ▶ Present situation in MSs:
 - ▶ In general human **health** is referenced, but understood in a **narrow way**
 - ▶ Definition of “Human health” varies and is generally **vague and unspecific**
 - ▶ Mostly understood as the **risk to health** instead of a **more complete** physical, mental and social well-being definition
 - ▶ Existence of **few guidelines** with a clear human health dimension
 - ▶ Several **barriers** to incorporate human health into EIA
- ▶ Integration of HIA into EIA
 - ▶ General opinion is **in favour** of an integration
 - ▶ **Differences** emerge on **how** these issues should be assessed within EIA
- ▶ Or NOT Integrate
 - ▶ Some **risks involved in the integration** (e.g. overburdening EIA, wide range of health issues to be considered, ...)

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Results of WP2

- ▶ How to integrate?
 - ▶ Need to clarify **which human health definition** is most adequate to implement
 - ▶ At least 3 approaches:
 1. EIA only covers risks to human health
 2. EIA include only human health determinants related to impacts on the environment
 3. EIA covers a broad range of human health determinants (also economic and social impacts)
- ▶ Need to **establish methodologies and techniques** for the implementation process
- ▶ Need to **involve** and engage **local communities** into impact assessments

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Policy Options for WP2

0. Do nothing
1. Preparation of a new guidance package on incorporating health into EIA
2. Supporting measures plus the preparation of a new guidance package
3. Minor amendments to the EIA Directive plus supporting measures plus the preparation of a new guidance package
4. Major amendments to the EIA Directive plus supporting measures plus the preparation of a new guidance package
5. New HIA Directive

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WP2 – Policy Options

Policy option (European policy level)	Guidance and Supportive measures					Regulative measures		
	Amendment of guidelines, and passive dissemination activities	Training	Active awareness raising campaign	Research funding, and targeted research	Monitoring progress in MS	Minor amendments to EIA Directive	Major amendments to EIA Directive	New HIA Directive
1 Do nothing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Preparation of new guidance package	x							
3 Supporting measures plus preparation of new guidance package	x	x	x	x				
4 Minor amendments to EIA Directive plus supporting measures plus guidance package	x	x	x	x	x	x		
5 Major amendment to EIA Directive plus supporting measures plus guidance package	x	x	x	x	x		x	
6 New HIA Directive	x ¹	x	x	x	x			x

1- A new health impact assessment (HIA) directive may demand the preparation of separate guidelines for HIA plus the amendment of existing EIA guidelines.

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WP3 – Risk Assessment Objectives of WP3

- ▶ **Comparative analysis of approaches** to risk assessment as part of EIA in EU Members States
- ▶ **Comparative analysis of the regulatory and legislative** basis to carry out risk assessment in national EIA systems and of the **co-ordination mechanisms** with other risk assessment procedures under sectoral national laws parallel to or separate from EIA, with particular regard to the IPPC, Seveso II and SEA directives
- ▶ Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of **current EIA practices** in terms of risk assessment
- ▶ **Identification of good practices** among Member States
- ▶ Formulation of a range of **policy options** addressed to the EC, including the analysis of advantages and disadvantages of each policy option

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Results of WP3

- ▶ Present situation in MSs:
 - ▶ Coverage of risks in EIA
 - ▶ **Differences in both natural and accidental hazards** among countries due to different natural conditions and number of high risk project types
 - ▶ Hazards are **seldom considered, or briefly mentioned**, in EIAs
 - ▶ Risk assessment and risk management appear to be often a **disaster-driven process**
 - ▶ Risk assessment process
 - ▶ **Identification** of relevant hazards and mitigation measures appear to be the **strongest** features of risk assessment and management
 - ▶ Risk assessment process **lacks** a number of **analytical key steps** required for risk **management** decisions
 - ▶ Other **weaknesses** regards: public participation, assessment of residual risks

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Results of WP3

► Barriers

- Non-existence or insufficient **technical guidance**
- Legislative and regulatory **framework conditions**
- Existence of **separate procedures** regarding risk assessment

► Effectiveness of risk assessment in EIA

- Interpretation of **effectiveness** is associated to the influences of risk assessment in EIAs on **project modifications**
- Improving the **coverage** of a hazard and risks in EIA is **not** necessarily **enough**
- Need for a **proactive integration** of risk assessment **results** into the EIA decision-making process

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Policy Options for WP3

0. Zero option: 'Do nothing'
1. Guidance 'light'
2. Preparation of a new technical guidance package plus proactive dissemination activities
3. Set of supporting measures
4. Launching of a risk assessment initiative with a broader perspective
5. Minor amendment to the EIA Directive plus new technical guidance package plus support for implementation
6. Major amendment to the EIA Directive plus new technical guidance package plus support for implementation

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WP3 – Policy Options

Policy option [European policy level]	Guidance		Supportive measures								Regulative measures		
	Upgrade	New guidance	(preparatory) consultation process	dissemination activities	Awareness- raising	training education	knowledge- sharing	research	coordination of procedures	specific implementation support	Other New Directive on Hazard Mapping	Amendment to EIA Directive Moderate	Major
0 Do nothing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 Guidance 'light'	x												
2 Preparation of new technical guidance package plus pro-active dissemination activities	(x)	x	x	x									
3 Set of supporting measures					x	x	x	x					
4 Launching a risk assessment initiative with a broader perspective			x				x	x	x		x		
5 Moderate amendment to EIA Directive plus new technical guidance package plus support for implementation	(x)	x	x	x	(x)	x	x	(x)	(x)	x	(x)	x	
6 Major amendment to EIA Directive plus new technical guidance package plus support for implementation	(x)	x	x	x	(x)	x	x	(x)	(x)	x	(x)	x	x

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WP4 – Projects subject to EIA

Objectives of WP4

- ▶ Research on the **relationships of Annex I and Annex II** and identification of different implementation methods among Member States
- ▶ Acquisition of information regarding the **definitions of thresholds and criteria and project type descriptions**
- ▶ **Investigation of the project lists** to assess whether all categories of projects with likely significant effects on the environment are on target of the Directive and comparison with project lists in other Directives relevant to EIA

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Results of WP4

- ▶ Present situation in MSs
 - ▶ Relationship Annex I+II
 - ▶ Most EU countries use **case by case analysis** as a screening tool
 - ▶ Case by case is **seldom** applied in about 1/5 of MSs
 - ▶ **General satisfaction** with present screening systems applied
 - ▶ Project types / Thresholds / Criteria
 - ▶ **Differences** among MSs lie mainly in the **set of thresholds / criteria** and **project descriptions**
 - ▶ **General satisfaction** with the list of project types subject to EIA as well as with project types description and set of thresholds/criteria
 - ▶ Guidance
 - ▶ Besides existing guidance at EU level **almost all MS have general guidance**
 - ▶ **Guidelines** focusing in particular **on screening** procedures are mostly found in MSs more frequently applying **case by case** assessments or with more **decentralized** EIA regulations

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Results of WP4

- ▶ Problems lie in:
 - ▶ a **lack of accurate interpretation** of screening criteria
 - ▶ the need for a **closer linkage** of thresholds/criteria with the actual impacts
 - ▶ need for **more guidance** as well as more **research** regarding EIA (screening) practice;
- ▶ Proposals
 - ▶ some **additional project types** are proposed for inclusion
 - ▶ for other categories **specified thresholds/criteria** should be set
 - ▶ **SEA** is regarded as a helpful tool to tackle some gaps and difficulties in EIA procedures

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Policy Options for WP4

0. Zero option: No change/do nothing
1. Guidance plus supportive measures
2. Minor amendment to the EIA directive plus supportive measures
3. Moderate amendment to the EIA directive plus supportive measures
4. Major amendment to the EIA directive plus supportive measures
5. Radical amendment to the EIA directive plus supportive measures

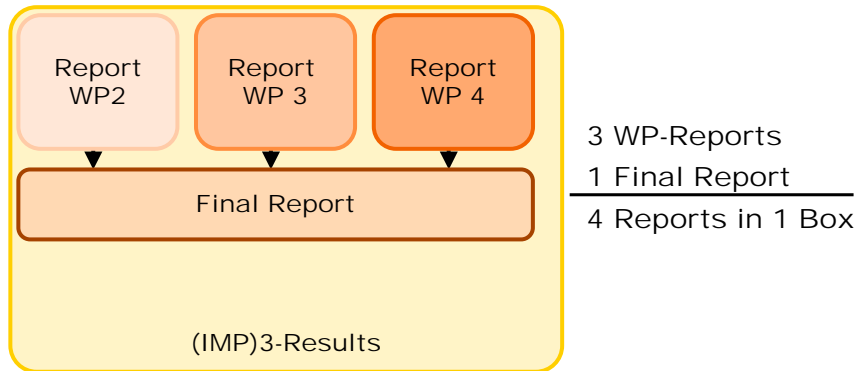
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WP4 – Policy Options

Policy option (European policy level)	Guidance and Supportive measures				Regulative measures			
	Amendment of existing guidance material	New guidelines	Training	Knowledge sharing	Amendments to EIA Directive			
					Minor	Moderate	Major	Radical
0 No change/Do nothing								
1 Guidance plus supportive measures	x	x	x	x				
2 Minor amendment to the EIA directive plus supportive measures	x	x	x	x	x			
3 Moderate amendment to the EIA directive plus supportive measures	x	x	x	x		x		
4 Major amendment to the EIA directive plus supportive measures	x	x	x	x			x	
5 Radical amendment to the EIA directive plus supportive measures	x	x	x	x				x

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Reports



WP Reports are independent, self contained and follow a similar structure

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The contribution of (IMP)3

(IMP)3 is expected to contribute to

- Enhance the **preventive, precautionary, prospective and anticipative** nature of EIA
- The **scientific and technological needs** of the EC to improve EIA as one of the most relevant environmental policy tools at European level
- A more **harmonised application of EIA** in all Member States with positive results as far as European **cohesion, equity and competitiveness** are concerned, providing the necessary **flexibility** to accommodate national and regional **diversity**
- A **robust and steady reform agenda** - amendments to the Directive, in the short term, may be difficult or inappropriate given recent developments (need to improve EIA implementation and new Directives – Aarhus Convention and SEA)

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