Introduction to Policy Impact Assessment (IA)

A training seminar for practitioners

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

As at March 2017

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Summary

The training course is an introduction into the fundamental concepts of Policy Impact Assessment (IA), with a particular focus on evaluating the expected direct and indirect policy impacts on the environmental, social and economic dimension of sustainable development. It enables participants to prepare and commission IAs and to interpret their results.

Background

Policy Impact Assessment (IA) is increasingly becoming a standard procedure in evidence based policy making. It is mandatory in OECD countries, and is steadily being adopted in emerging and developing countries. A comprehensive IA has the ambition to take the social, economic, and environmental impacts of a proposed policy into account before it is adopted. It improves policy coherence and helps identify unintended (side-)effects – a prerequisite for developing accompanying measures to avoid negative impacts of new policies. Against the background of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the evaluation of policy choices according to their impacts on all three dimensions of sustainable development needs to receive even greater attention.

Objectives:

- Participants understand the benefits of IA and get an overview of the requirements and options for designing an IA process.
- Participants are enabled to plan and supervise an IA process. This includes an overview of the different elements of IA, and of the methods for conducting the assessment.
- Participants know how to embed an IA process in the policy making process in order to assure relevance.

Target group

- Sectoral ministry staff and think tanks, preparing or executing policy making processes or planning to conduct an IA
- Donor organization staff implementing programmes involving IAs
- Staff of government bodies responsible for the institutionalization of IA.

Methodology

The training has been designed to engage participants to the broadest possible degree. Expert inputs on each issue are combined interactive exercises and case study work.

Organization

The training seminar has a modular structure and can be organized from 3 to 5 days. Modules can be combined in order to best meet the particular needs and interest of individual groups.

Modules

- Introduction to IA
- Getting started with IA
- Methods for Scoping
- Methods for In-depth analysis
- Impact areas
- Modelling
- Scenario development
- Comparing options
- Stakeholder involvement
- Institutionalization of IA