

How do we assess the impacts of laws?

Methodology, division of responsibilities and challenges

Tuesday, 18 February 2020

Workshop organised by the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance and Economy and Ministry of Industries and Innovation in cooperation with the School of Central Government

Venue: Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura, Nauthólsvegur 52, Reykjavik

Chair: Bryndís Hlökkversdóttir, Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office

9.00 - 9.15 Opening: Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister

9.15 - 10.45 Synergies between institutions regarding impact assessments and links with stakeholder engagement

How has the impact assessment culture evolved in different national contexts? Who are the main players and how do they interact? How have impact assessments been integrated into the legislative and regulatory process? Are both ex-ante and ex-post RIAs equally made use of to ensure evidence-based policy making? What are the links with consultation processes and other democratic processes? How important is it that RIAs are subject to independent scrutiny?

- Páll Þórhallsson, Head of Department (EEA Counsellor), Prime Minister's Office
- Hlynur Hreinsson, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance and Economy
- Kristin Johnsrud, Senior Regulatory Policy Adviser, Secretariat of Regelráðet
- Philipp Aepler, Assistant Director, Secretariat of the UK Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC)

Discussion and reaction:

- Guðjón Bragason, Head of the Legal and Welfare Department of the Association of Local Authorities;
- Hildur Eva Sigurðardóttir, Head of the Standing Committee Department of Althingi

10.45 - 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30 Methodology and capacity building

What methodology is being used for effective impact assessments? Division of labour between different kinds of experts. How does one increase capacity within governmental institutions? Availability and access to data. How to make the most of scarce resources of time and manpower? Dealing with complex regulatory packages.

- Guðrún Þorleifsdóttir, Head of Department, Ministry of Finance
- Stian Hervik Frantzen, Adviser, Secretariat of Regelráðet

- Andrew Hallett, Senior Policy Adviser, Secretariat of the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC)

Discussion and reaction:

- Víðir Smári Petersen lawyer
- Heimir Skarphéðinsson, Senior Legal Expert, Ministry of Industries and Innovation

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 15.00 Sectoral impacts

Regulatory impact assessments are more developed in some fields than others. How can we build on experience gained in one field to improve evidence-based regulation generally?

- Competition in markets: Ania Thiemann, Senior Economist, OECD
- Gender issues: Herdís Sólborg Haraldsdóttir, Policy Expert, Prime Minister's Office
- Impacts on Business: Stian Hervik Frantzen, Adviser, Regelrådet
- Small & Micro Business assessments: Daniel Weaver, Assistant Economist, Secretariat of the Regulatory Policy Committee

Discussion and reaction:

- Sigrún Ágústsdóttir, Head of the Environment Agency
- Pétur Reimarsson, Engineer, Competitvity Division, Confederation of Icelandic Enterprise

15.00 - 15.15 Coffee break

15.15 - 16.30 Current and future challenges

What are the main challenges for evidence-base regulation going forward? Synergies from task-division between politics, stakeholders and civil service. The role of national parliaments who are the main venue of legislative power. Globalisation and impacts at the national level. Are some political decisions too big to be grasped by impact assessments? Is issue complexity growing and how to deal with that? Can emerging technologies such as AI support better regulation?

- Ragna Árnadóttir, General Secretary of Althingi
- Kristin Johnsrud, Senior Regulatory Policy Adviser, Regelrådet
- Philipp Aepler, Assistant Director, Secretariat of the UK Regulatory Policy Committee

Discussion and reaction:

- Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation
- Jón Steindór Valdimarsson, Member of Althingi

