

# Impact Assessment and Policy Analysis

Clive George

---

The aim of this course is to familiarize participants with the evidence-based approach to policy analysis and development. It will explain how government policies, legislation and other interventions can be assessed for their likely impacts before they are introduced (ex-ante) or for their actual impacts after implementation (ex-post). The concept of Impact Assessment (IA) will be explained, and the different approaches and applications of IA will be discussed. The approaches examined include Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), Environmental IA, and Sustainability IA. Different applications of IA will be discussed, including the development of EU policy, the development of national policy in developed, transition and developing countries, the harmonization of national legislation with EU legislation, the evaluation of major programmes, and the assessment of development assistance programmes. The assessment methods used will be critically evaluated, along with the roles of the main actors – national and local government, business associations, trade unions, NGO, and academia. Students will gain a practical understanding of applying IA techniques through the use of examples, case studies and group exercises.