

Conference on the Further Development
of Impact Assessment in the European Union

Regulatory Impact Analysis In Ireland



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Structure of Presentation

1. Background to RIA in Ireland
2. RIA Model and Pilot Process Outcomes
3. RIA and EU Legislation
4. Launch of RIA
5. RIA Supports
6. Critical Success Factors
7. Future Challenges





Background to RIA in Ireland

1. 2001: OECD Peer Review
2. Draft RIA Model developed
3. 2002: Introduction of integrated Impact Assessment by European Commission
4. 2004: White Paper *Regulating Better* set out broader policy agenda and committed to piloting RIA





RIA model

Two-phase approach:

- Screening RIA
- Full RIA: only conducted where Screening RIA suggests significant impacts (six criteria identified) or costs





Outcome of Pilot Process

Demonstrated many of the benefits of RIA:

- A more structured and explicit focus on the objectives behind regulations-what problem is being addressed
- Identification and analysis of alternative options for achieving policy goals
- More analysis and quantification of costs associated with regulations-link to administrative burdens issue





Outcome of Pilot Process cont'd

- Encouraged a more structured and explicit examination of expected benefits
- Highlighted importance of consultation with stakeholders
- Encouraged earlier focus on enforcement and compliance issues-who will enforce the regulations, what are the compliance targets?





Outcome of Pilot Process cont'd



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- Introduced idea of performance indicators for regulations-how will we know the regulations are working well?
- Can help address cross-cutting issues
- Showed that RIA could help inform Ireland's negotiating position and transposition of EU Directives





When to apply RIA

- Policy Review Groups
- Primary Legislation: Before seeking Government decision to draft legislation
- Significant Statutory Instruments
- EU Legislation





EU Legislation

- National RIA to be carried out once Draft Directives have been published by Commission
- Use the Commission Impact Assessment as a starting point, but focus on specific national impacts and feed into negotiations
- National RIA to take account of transposition options
- Information note for Parliament's European Scrutiny Committee takes account of RIA Model





BUT

- RIA must be applied at an early stage in the regulatory cycle - before Government decides to regulate
- Costs and benefits should be specific and relevant





Launch of RIA in Ireland

- Report to Government June 2005 on RIA Model
- Launched July 2005 by Taoiseach
- Launch of Consultation Guidelines simultaneously





Responsibility for RIA

- RIAs to be conducted by Departmental officials overseeing policy area where regulation proposed
- Oversight role for the Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Finance
- Departments to ensure impacts within their policy areas reflected in RIAs





RIA Supports

- RIA Guidelines published October 2005
- RIA Training Module running each month
- Better Regulation Unit, D/Taoiseach available to guide, advise and support Depts
- Economic Consultant available to Depts
- Review of operation of RIA after 2 years





Critical success factors

- Convincing Senior Management of benefits
- Starting the process early
- Awareness-raising and training of Officials
- Availability of “just in time” support, advice and expertise
- Learning from doing-RIA very much an iterative process





Future Challenges

- Cultural Change – embedding RIA in the system
- Avoid ‘overburdening’ the model
- Demonstrate added value of RIA
Does it deliver better decisions/results?
- Focus on outcomes – monitoring and review





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