



Regulatory impact analysis within the Dutch regulatory reform program

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Content

- The pros and cons of RIA's
- The timetable for impact analysis
- The methods and techniques
- Pitfalls
- Recommendations



Regulatory reform in the Netherlands

‘More market by less, but better rules’

3 operations

- *MDW (now B4)*; reviews existing laws
- *Proposed regulation*; testing new rules (BIA, Environmental)
- *Reducing administrative cost*, against bureaucracy



RIA-example: The fuel market (I)

1997: Is fuel more expensive in the Netherlands?

RIA: The influence of the rules.

1998: Plea for restructuring the fuel market.

RIA:

- **Total consumption maybe € 270 mln. cheaper**
- **There is space for 155 additional selling points**
- **Real opportunities for unmanned fuel stations**



RIA-example: The fuel market (II)

2000: First unmanned selling points appear

2002: First auction of permits to sell fuel at the highways

RIA:

- **Influence of newcomers on prices**
- **What is a highway permit worth**

2006?: Evaluation of new economic structure and fuel prices



Pros and cons of RIA

Pros

- technique to find information for reform based upon facts
- tool to monitor and manage reform projects
- communication strategy to get society support

Cons

- cost of the research and evaluation

⇒ In general the pros exceed the cons.



The timetable for impact analysis

Before

- Analysing the current economic structure

During regulatory reform

- Proposing new legislation to Parliament:
ex ante evaluation of the new rules
- During implementation and transition:
as a managerial tool

Afterwards: ex post evaluation



Shop hours act (1996)

= Enlarging shopping hours
from 6 till 10 pm

Effects within the RIA

- Jobs created
- Economy of scale effects in retail
- Appreciation consumers
- Labour participation women
- Noise pollution
- Traffic intensities
- Ability Christian workers to attend messes



Used RIA-methods

Collecting known facts and figures

Ex ante impact analysis of legislative proposals
(on businesses, vindictive costs, environment)

Research

- Seeking for new facts and figures
- 'Mistral': method to quantify administrative burden
- Interviewing involved parties for opinions, remarks and criticism



RIA as managerial tool

Taxi transportation act (2000)

- list of checkpoints
(price per mile, number of taxi's, use of taxi's)
- monitoring the transition
(in 1998, 2001, (2002), 2004)
- intervention and additional legislation when needed.
(e.g. additional rules about presentation fares)
- Ex post evaluation afterwards



Pitfalls of regulatory impact analysis

- Starting too late
- Changing research techniques during the RIA's
- Other (unforeseen) developments may cloud the picture
- Jumping to conclusions



Recommendations for an effective use of RIA

- Choose the checkpoints wisely
- Be creative and pragmatic in finding figures
- Use the RIA as a indication not as a prophesy
- Watch closely, but react slowly
- Use criticism and negative effects as valuable signals to improve your regulatory reform program
- Allow yourself to learn about RIA by doing it.