Towards a new System of Impact Assessment in Austria

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IA: Status quo in Austria

- Comprehensive obligation - fragmented implementation
- Lack of support & instruments
  Exceptions: financial IA, admin burden IA
- Administrative culture
Experiences with Admin Burden IA

Aim in 2007: „Get ex-ante assessments done in quality"

- Law
- Ordinance (Standardkostenmodell-Richtlinien)
- Guidelines
- Monitoring: MoF-statement on compliance

Challenge: Quality
Experiences with SCM

Introduction of admin burden calculator

- Mandatory fields
- IT supported output for consultation
Introducing IA

Aim: "better regulation"

• Process

Oriented toward outcomes

Budget Reform as trigger

• Outcome orientation in budget and impact assessment are mutually reinforcing

• Use a substantial, existing reform process

Experiences

• Aspiration vs. Practice

• International und science
Federal Budget Reform 2013

Result-oriented management of administrative units

Impact assessment

Reform 2013

New budget structure: „lump-sum budgets“

Accrual budgeting and accounting

New budget principles:
Impact orientation; efficiency; transparency; true and fair view
Impact - Orientation

- Impact Information in the **budget**

- Impact Information in **Policy formulation**
  laws/ordinances/international agreements

- Impact Information in the **Budget execution:**
  projects/programmes/impact controlling

**Principle:** Oppose expected costs and unintended impacts with intended impacts
Legal Framework

Federal Budget Law 2013 (BHГ 2013)

Provisions – Law

„Framework“ ordinance on principles of outcome oriented IA

Ordinance on financial impacts

Ord. Admin burden

Ord. Gender

Ord. Environment

etc.
Basics

• Done within administration

• For all laws, ordinances, international agreements – national AND EU legislation – AND big projects

• Only significant impacts are assessed in detail

• Limited number of impact dimensions

• Lean process
Impact dimensions

1. Financial impacts on public budgets
2. Gender equality
3. Macroeconomic impacts
4. Small & Medium Enterprises
5. Admin burdens on businesses
6. Admin burdens on citizens
7. Environmental impacts
8. Social and impacts on consumers
9. Impacts on youth and future generations

Questionnaires (with quantitative information) AND calculators
Feasible

- Methodological support - Guidelines

- IT Tool - Guided process
  - Guided analysis ->
    writing in tool
  - „Push the button“- IA-document
  - Experts can work in parallel
Support by IT

- One-stop-solution
- Selection
- Usability
Quality Checks & Feedback Mechanisms

- Obligation to conduct impact assessment – at the same time enablement

- Standardization of results – quality checks possible

- Ensuring common quality

- Ex-Post Evaluation obligatory within 5 yrs at the latest
Key aspects of implementation

• Taking into account administrative culture

• Involving ministries

• Apply principles of SCM-experience

• Administrative reform approach: initiate change in culture

• Short and medium term process

Outcome orientation
- Budget management
- Policy/tics
- Administration
Timetable

- November 2011 – January 2012: consultation process on ordinances
- February 2012 – Mai: Piloting
- June – August: Follow up
- August: Ordinances put into force
- September–December: Training of Ministries
- January 2013: New system in force
Thank you very much!

... discussion