



Snapshots of IO Practices

Emergency Response Exercise (ERE)

Organisation(s): International Energy Agency (IEA)

The Snapshots of IO Practices present examples of specific efforts undertaken by an international organisation to work towards more effective international instruments. They aim to highlight examples of practices within the five focus areas of the Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking (IO Partnership), namely the variety and development of international instruments, their implementation, evaluation, ensuring stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination among IOs. The snapshots are submitted by the secretariats of the relevant international organisations implementing the relevant practice. The practices were compiled by the OECD Secretariat and focal points of the IO Partnership (UNCITRAL, OIE, WHO, ISO, WCO, BIPM, and SIECA), with a brief review to ensure consistency and comparability of the information provided within the snapshots. The inclusion of a practice in these snapshots implies no endorsement or assessment of that practice on the part of the OECD Secretariat or the focal points of the IO Partnership.

1	Overview of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
1.1	Organisation	International Energy Agency (IEA)	
1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	Implementation - assistance mechanisms	
1.3	Name of the Practice	Emergency Response Exercise (ERE)	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template		

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2	Description of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	<p>The IEA carries out an ERE every two years to train delegates on the IEA co-ordinated emergency response system to help ensure that participants are capable of implementing the system quickly and effectively in the event of a major global oil supply disruption. Participants include delegates from IEA Member, accession and partner countries, the European Commission, the IEA Industry Advisory Board, other industry stakeholders, and IEA Secretariat staff.</p> <p>The modern formulation of the ERE consists of two exercises with each designed to test a specific aspect of the emergency response system. The exercise in capitals (EXCAP) is conducted entirely via email and tests the communications and emergency data collection capabilities of participants. The Main Exercise (EXMAIN) is conducted in Paris and is designed to train delegates in key aspects of global oil market functioning and the process of implementation of an Initial Contingency Response Plan.</p>	
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	To familiarise participants with the IEA emergency response system as well as the key trends and risk factors impacting the global oil market, by making use of hypothetical disruption scenarios.	

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	<p>Over the years, the ERE has ensured that officials from IEA member countries are familiar with the application and implementation of the IEA's emergency response system. This ensures that countries have the necessary capacity and knowledge to implement an IEA collective action in case of a severe oil supply disruption. As participation has broadened in recent years, IEA Association and other partner countries have also participated in EREs and improved their capacity to co-ordinate their own responses with collective action by IEA Members.</p>	
2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	1976	
2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	<p>The IEA has conducted tests of its emergency response system since the early days of the Agency, beginning in 1976 with the first Allocations Systems Test (AST), the predecessor to the ERE. The ASTs focused on testing the IEA's Emergency Sharing System, which provided a framework for the physical sharing of oil stocks among Members according to an agreed set of rules. The ASTs took many weeks to complete and involved large time and resource commitments from IEA Members and industry participants. The Agency carried out 7 ASTs between 1976 and 1992.</p> <p>In the 1990s, following a shift in the Agency's emphasis towards co-ordinated stockdraw (that is, making oil stocks available to the market) in the event of a supply disruption, the emphasis of the ERE shifted as well to ensure that the simulation would test the Members ability to co-ordinate such a response. The Agency carried out the first reformulated ERE in 1998, and the exercise has taken place every 2 years since 2002. The specific format and focus of the ERE has continued to evolve to suit the needs of Members. In addition, participation has broadened, and non-IEA Member countries have participated in every ERE.</p>	<p>Sources:</p> <p>[IEA History, Volume 2, at 149] [IEA History, Volume 4, at 184] [IEA History, Volume 5 (forthcoming)]</p> <p>https://www.iea.org/areas-of-work/ensuring-energy-security/emergency-response-exercises</p>

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	The ERE provides a mechanism to continuously maintain operability of the IEA co-ordinated response system despite any staff turnover in country Administrations and the IEA Secretariat. It also provides an opportunity for continuous capacity building in both Member and non-IEA Member countries, helping to broaden the scope of participation in an IEA co-ordinated collective action.	
2.7	What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?	The EREs bring together a very diverse range of delegates, both in terms of experience (ranging from newly hired staff in training to senior experts from member country administrations) and geographic region (and thus coming from very different regional market contexts with which to view oil supply security).	
2.8	Does the practice have a formal/normative basis within the organisation or is it conducted informally? Does this basis make the practice mandatory or voluntary? If there is formal basis, please provide the relevant link or documentation.	There is no binding decision of the IEA Governing Board requiring participation of IEA members in the EREs, however the exercises are considered to be a priority of the membership and they are formally included in the IEA's biennial Programme of Work and Budget. As a general rule, all IEA members participate in the exercises, A number of non-member countries, such as accession and Association countries and other partner countries with which the IEA closely collaborates, are also invited to participate.	
2.9	At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?	Every two years.	
2.10	Is this practice applied systematically, (e.g. with respect to every normative instrument, according to specific criteria or on an ad hoc basis)?	No normative instrument, but carried out systematically	

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents).	<p>The IEA held its most recent ERE in 2018 with participation by all IEA member countries plus Chile, Mexico, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Thailand, and the European Commission. Press release available here: https://www.iea.org/news/broadest-ever-participation-in-iea-emergency-response-exercise</p> <p>The 2020 ERE was postponed because of the Covid pandemic.</p>	
3	Design of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	The ERE has been designed on an ongoing basis since 1976 between the IEA and its members. A dedicated team within the IEA Secretariat, responsible for implementing the IEA's emergency response system, designs the scenarios for each exercise and guidance is provided by a committee of delegates from IEA member countries and the IEA Industry Advisory Board.	
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	A committee (Design Group) consisting of the most senior delegates from IEA Member countries and the IEA Industry Advisory Board provide guidance in the designing of each exercise.	
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	ERE has undergone continuous evolution since the first system tests carried out by the Agency since 1978. Following each ERE a survey is completed by participants and the exercise is evaluated by the IEA Secretariat and the member country delegates of the Standing Group on Emergency Questions (SEQ). Each iteration of the ERE draws from the lessons learned from previous exercises.	

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	The level of resources has shifted over time. The modern iteration of the ERE takes place every two years and requires approximately 6 months to prepare.	
3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	The ERE has been continually altered and adjusted over time. In particular, there was a significant shift in the 1980s and 1990s towards a response system based on co-ordinated release of oil stocks to the market, rather than on physical sharing of oil. This change required the predecessor to the ERE (the AST) to be completely reorganised and reformulated. Since that time, the ERE has been constantly adjusted to take advantage of new communication technology and other developments. With the growing share of oil consumption taking place outside of IEA Members, the ERE has taken a more prominent role in outreach activities with key non-IEA Member countries.	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	No, practice developed in iterative fashion.	

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



4	Implementation of the Practice		Comments and intersections
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	IEA Directorate of Energy Markets and Security, Energy Policy and Security Division	
4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	Yes. The IEA Members are the primary beneficiary of the ERE. Each Member participates by assigning representatives to participate in the exercise. Participation is both in-person in Paris for the main part of the exercise (EXMAIN) and remotely for the exercise in capital (EXCAP). The more experienced member representatives are asked to take a leadership role in small break-out groups during the exercise.	
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	Yes. The exercise discussion is facilitated by an independent senior oil market expert, typically a retiree from the oil industry. Videos illustrating the disruption scenarios are produced by a professional film company using IEA staff as actors.	
4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	The ERE itself consists of two days of training and exercises in Paris. Members typically send officials to participate in person in Paris, and participate remotely for the separate exercise in capital. All travel and accommodation costs are covered by the participants. Advance planning for each exercise typically takes 6 months.	

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



5	Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	Yes, each exercise is reviewed.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	The exercise is evaluated internally by the IEA Secretariat and the member country delegates of the Standing Group on Emergency Questions (SEQ), based on input from participants.	
5.3	If yes, please describe the evaluation methodology? (e.g. were any quantitative or qualitative indicators/criteria used to measure/assess the outcomes of the practice?)	The broad objectives for ERE are agreed by SEQ delegates in advance of the exercise. After the exercise, all participants are requested to fill out a survey, and the Secretariat reports to the SEQ with a review of the exercise and the results of the survey.	
5.4	If yes, what were the conclusions of the evaluation, and has the practice evolved subsequently? If possible, please attach related documents or provide a link.	The evaluation of each exercise is concluded in confidential committee meetings (SEQ). These conclusions are taken into account when designing the next iteration of the exercise.	
6	Additional comments and information	Answers	Comments and intersections
6.1	Is there any more information or documentation that would be valuable to share in relation to the practice (e.g. links, reports, meeting minutes, supporting documents)?	https://www.iea.org/areas-of-work/ensuring-energy-security/emergency-response-exercises https://www.iea.org/news/iea-holds-9th-emergency-response-exercise https://www.iea.org/news/broadest-ever-participation-in-iea-emergency-response-exercise	
Sources			