

<p><sup>28th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment  <b>THE ART AND SCIENCE OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>  <b>IAIA08 Session Chair's Report</b></p>
<p><b>Session number and name:</b> TF3.2 Technology Assessment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The State of the Art and Science of TA</p>
<p><b>Day:</b> Wednesday <b>Date:</b> May 7 <b>Time:</b> 10.30-12.00 <b># Persons attending session:</b> c50</p>
<p><b>Names of Session Chairs</b>  Frank Vanclay</p>
<p><b>Contributors</b>  Wendy Russell, Frank Vanclay, Dr Leonhard Hennen, Dr Robby Berloznik, Dr Sergio Bellucci, Dr Walter Peissl</p>
<p><b>(a) Three current issues in application of assessment processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shift from a classical (expert-based) approach to a participatory approach</li> <li>• Acknowledgement of the effectiveness of multidisciplinary approaches.</li> <li>• Technology assessment (TA) needs to demonstrate value and credibility to the public and the public authorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>(b) One or more emerging trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public and political involvement are key issues in technology assessment</li> <li>• Technology assessment and IAIA have developed in parallel, but both will benefit by coming together again.</li> <li>• Many innovative forms of participation have been explored and found effective e.g. citizen juries, consensus conferences, forums, workshops etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>(c) Issues relating to impact assessment effectiveness:</b></p> <p><b>(i) Dimensions of IA effectiveness (what are the characteristics of effective IA?)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appropriateness of the institutional context of TA agencies (political, scientific, public) and their political and social support</li> <li>• Use of mixed methods</li> <li>• Effective networks for collaboration between national agencies</li> </ul> <p><b>(ii) Challenges/barriers to IA effectiveness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maintenance of legitimacy and being able to show that TA is valued</li> </ul> <p><b>(iii) How these barriers might be overcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish more contact and influence between the TA society and public and political bodies</li> <li>• Emphasize that TA enables a fair process</li> <li>• Develop better understanding of the TA process and the outcome</li> </ul>
<p><b>(d) Comments on the Art and Science of Impact Assessment (i.e. the relative importance and interplay between science and values/politics/subjectivity in impact assessment)</b></p> <p>There is a need for linking impact assessment methodology together with a participatory approach. For IA to be effective, it has to be considered valuable to the society.</p>