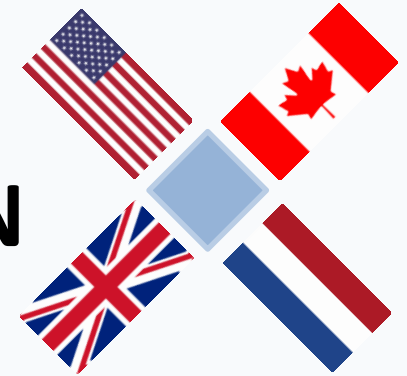


CROSS-COUNTRY COMPARISON OF QUALITY CONTROL IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



IAIA15 Florence

April 22, 2015

Motivation

- no quality control or quality assurance instruments implemented in Germany
- Research project about international trends in EIA and SEA (research and practice), lead by the Federal Environment Agency

Comparing characteristics – Multi case study

Leading Questions

Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How are the QC instruments integrated into the Environmental Assessment system?
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is conducting the quality control?• Are there any selection criteria for controllers?
Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do the QC results get published and if yes, how?
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there information available about the effectiveness of QC measures?

4 key words ... 4 sample cases →

Sample Cases



Review Panel







**Netherlands Commission for
Environmental Assessment (NCEA)**



EPA EIS Review



IEMA EIA Quality Mark

	 Review Panel	 EPA EIS Review	 NCEA	 IEMA Q-Mark
Integration	integrated into the assessment process			independent from the assessment process
	after (Draft) EIS preparation		while/after EIS preparation, (also scoping, monitoring, ...)	application review + periodically renewal reviews
	no longer than 2 years for the whole process	maximum review time of 45 days	EIS review approx. 6 - 9 weeks	no longer than 12 weeks for review and decision



Review Panel

NCEA

IEMA Q-Mark

EPA EIS Review

Personnel

- maintain pool/list of relevant experts
- appoint review specific groups of experts from the pool
- **possibility to file a complaint in case of concerns regarding independency**

- Federal agency staff
- No (known) influence on decisions concerning reviewers





- from the fields of industry, universities, government agencies or related groups





- expert pool build up from IEMA members

- **assigned through relevant knowledge**

- **randomly assigned for applicant reviews**

- ~~assigned through regional competence~~

Transparency	 EPA EIS Review	 Review Panel	 NCEA	 IEMA Q-Mark
	<p>QC results do get published</p>			<p>no detailed information about applicant review published; either passed the review or not; appearance in the EIA Q-Mark Registry</p>
<p>Estimations of environmental impacts and adequacy of information</p>	<p>Panel reports, hearing documentation and decisions published in CEA Registry</p>	<p>reviews and advices accessible through NCEA website</p>		

Effectiveness	 EPA EIS Review	 Review Panel	 NCEA	 IEMA Q-Mark
	No thorough assessment		Positive effects on EA quality reported	
	Tzoumis 2007 and Tzoumis & Finegold 2000	Gibson 2011	Berenschot 2012, Runhaar et. al. 2011, Noviconsult 2009 and Hoevenaars 2013	Fischer 2014

Concluding questions

- CA Review Panel: A promising approach to contribute to thorough and consensus-oriented decision-making → empirical research needed
- NCEA: strong institutional setting, well-documented → strengths and weaknesses of peer reviews?
- IEMA EIA Quality Mark: legitimacy and power of an *independent* certification body?
- EPA EIS Review: an internal quality control mechanism with limited capacities, is there institutional learning?

Thank you for your attention!

**I'm looking forward to your questions
and comments**