

Improving environmental assessment by adopting good practices and tools of multi-criteria decision analysis



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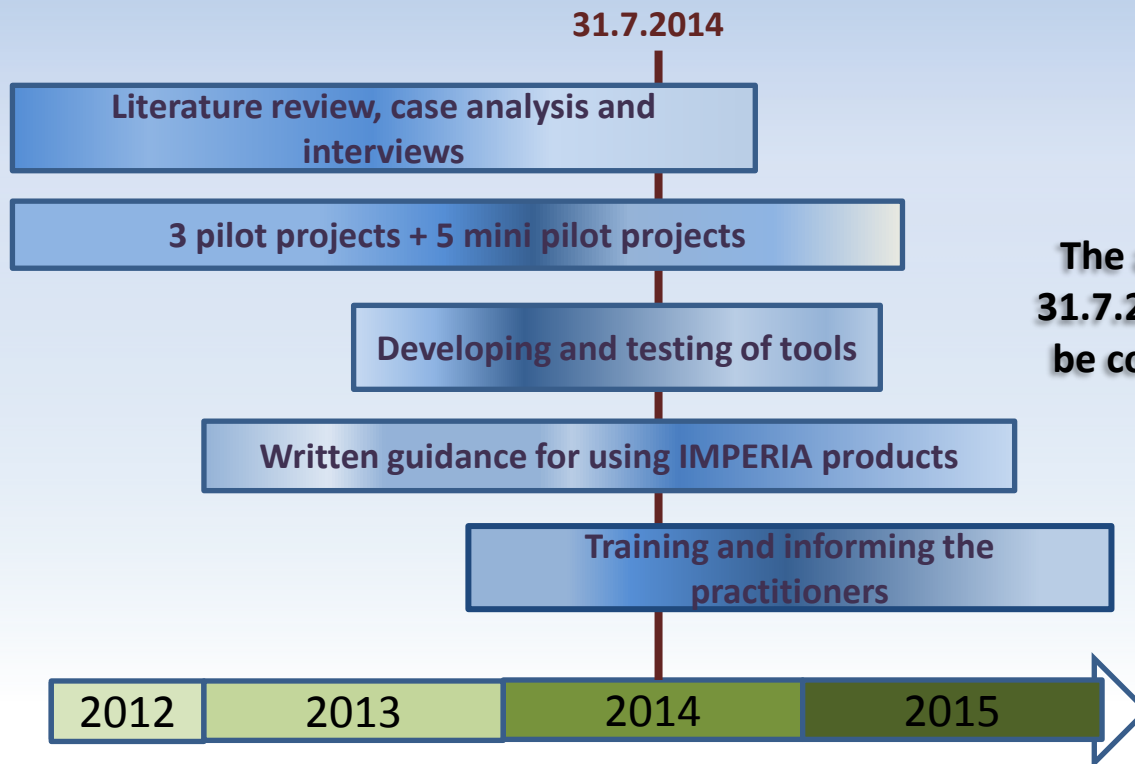


IMPERIA AIMS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF EIA PROJECTS

Searches for, develops and reports good practices to support the phases of environmental impact assessment

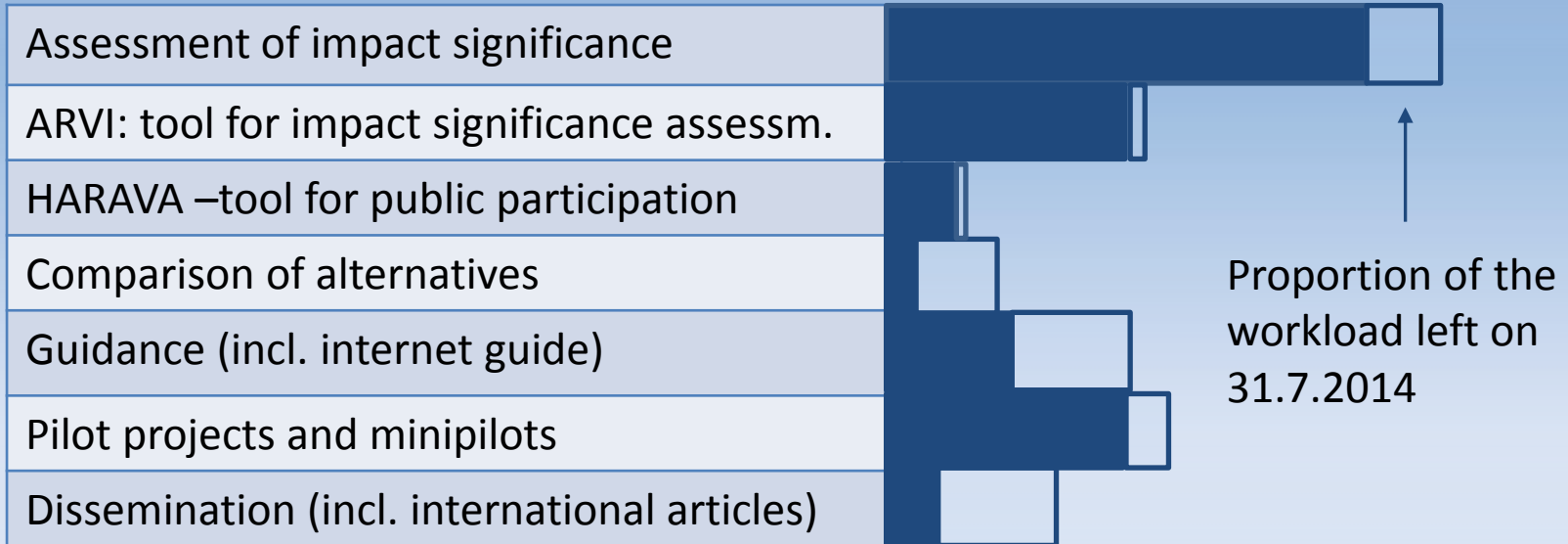
Develops systematic tools for assessing impact significance, comparison of alternatives and conduction of public participation

To inform the EIA practitioners about good practices and train them to use new tools



The actions finished in IMPERIA by 31.7.2014 and the actions planned to be conducted before the end of the project

The utilisation of resources and progression of the central actions of the project by 31.7.2014



ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE

- Impact significance assessment was examined using national and international EIA documents as a source.
 - Assessment framework based on the magnitude of impact and sensitivity of the receptor was created to enhance the impact significance assessment.
 - The first version of project type dependent classification of impacts was completed in June 2014
- Classification of the impacts associated with different project types are developed further.

ARVI -TOOL

- The first test version of ARVI-tool was released 30th of September in 2013
 - ARVI-tool was used in Piiparinmäki-Lammaslammin kangas wind farm EIA (the first pilot project of IMPERIA)
 - ARVI was introduced at the national EIA-meeting 19th of March in 2014
 - ARVI has been tested by several environment consultants and other EIA practitioners
- ARVI-tool is translated to English in order to use the tool in the Balticconnector gas pipe project EIA (fifth of the IMPERIA mini pilots).
 - ARVI-tool is developed further using the experiences from test users and pilot projects. Focus of development work is in the usability of the tool and in the features related to comparison of alternatives in EIA.

HARAVA -TOOL

- IMPERIA has acted as a pilot for HARAVA project <http://portal.eharava.fi/en/> run by the government of Finland aiming to collect valuable information from the local residents in order to increase the base information needed in land-use planning.
 - IMPERIA has produced project-type dependent questionnaires for HARAVA
 - HARAVA was used in Piiparinmäki-Lammaslamminkangas wind farm EIA (the first pilot project of IMPERIA)
 - Master's thesis examining the use of HARAVA in EIA was finished 27th of February in 2014
- IMPERIA is developing a practice of public participation based on the use of HARAVA. The aim of the work is to create unambiguous and transparent way to collect opinions of local residents and other stakeholder groups during planning processes. In the development of HARAVA-questionnaires, special attention is given to the possible causes of bias frequently found in inquiry results.

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

- Features enhancing the comparison of project alternatives have been planned to be included in ARVI-tool
- To find the most effective way to compare the alternatives, current practices are examined using literature and this information is applied in the development of ARVI-tool.

PILOT PROJECTS

MAJOR PILOT PROJECT	Tasks conducted by IMPERIA	Upcoming tasks of IMPERIA
EIA of Piiparinmäki-Lammaslammin kangas wind farm	IMPERIA participated the preparation of scoping report and EIS testing new practices and tools	Final report is prepared and evaluation of used methods is conducted for IMPERIA
EIA of wastewater management of Vihti commune	IMPERIA participated the preparation of scoping report and EIS providing support in the assessment of impacts of project alternatives and a tool for the impact significance assessment	Report of the pilot project is prepared for IMPERIA
SEA of flood risk management plan for the river Lapuanjoki	IMPERIA participated the preparation of SEA applying MCDA approach	Report of the pilot project is prepared and evaluation is conducted for IMPERIA
MINOR PILOT PROJECT	Tasks conducted by IMPERIA	Upcoming tasks of IMPERIA
Water course risk assessment of new peat production areas in Southern Ostrobothnia	IMPERIA participated the preparation of the assessment report applying MCDA approach	The pilot project is evaluated for IMPERIA
Options for the drinking water supply of the City of Oulu	IMPERIA participated the preparation of the assessment report applying MCDA approach	The pilot project is evaluated for IMPERIA
SEA for the Regional Programme of Northern Ostrobothnia	IMPERIA participated the preparation of the SEA applying MCDA approach	The pilot project is evaluated for IMPERIA
EIA of wastewater management of the City of Lappeenranta	IMPERIA executed a HARAVA questionnaire and reported the experiences from it	The pilot project is evaluated for IMPERIA
EIA of Balticconnector gas pipeline between Finland and Estonia		IMPERIA participates the impact significance assessment and preparation of EIS. The pilot project is evaluated for IMPERIA

GUIDANCE

- Good practices in EIA has been collected using literature and straight from the practitioners for example during the seminar on 13th on May in 2014
- Applying methods of MCDA in EIA has been examined using literature research. Additionally, a master's thesis examining the joint use of MCDA and cost-benefit analysis was completed.
- Using the collected information and development work of IMPERIA, guidance on the following themes are prepared for practitioners: Elements of good EIA, Impact significance assessment, Comparison of project alternatives, and Structured and interactive EIA process
- The guidance material is also reproduced to be published in the internet

DISSEMINATION

- Members of IMPERIA project group have presented the projects in different events such as national EIA meeting and international EIA conference (IAIA14, Chile)
- IMPERIA and its pilot projects have gained media attention in local media and professional papers.
- IMPERIA has arranged seminars and training sessions in which the output of the projects and their use has been presented to EIA practitioners.
- Website of IMPERIA <http://imperia.jyu.fi> is frequently updated and special attention is taken to the pages in English.
- IMPERIA and its outputs are presented in different occasions and for example environmental consultants are invited to agree on tailored information and training sessions.

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