

IATRP Self assessment

Oct. 24, 2007

Self assessment IAIA sections

Goal: to assess the viability of sections in IAIA. Based on the assessment a section could make decisions on further section development, joining up with other sections, starting a new (sub) section or closing of the section.

Procedure: to be decided in the section

Method: discussion (in the section) about:

- a number of indicators
- some questions

Criteria and related indicators

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Is there an interest within IAIA in the section's work field?	Average # participants in the workshops in the section conference stream. From 2001 to 2007 the average number is 53.
Do IAIA members produce work on the section's work field?	On average 3-5 abstracts submitted under the each section theme All IATRP presentations deal with section's work fields. 1-5 workshops/special meetings during annual meeting vary. IATRP has held a theme form and 2-3 sessions in '04; theme forum and 2 sessions in '05; 1 session in '06 and 2 sessions in '07.
Are there IAIA members who feel special involvement regarding the section's work field	There are 17 members (as registered by HQ). There has been a 'core group' of members involved and 2-3 co-chairs since IATRP's inception. This year interest in the section has diminished because the WTO Doha round of talks has stalled and interest in trade agreements has been affected. Therefore Impact Assessment of Trade is not a top priority for governments. Also funding to attend IATRP Sessions is limited.
Do section members develop joint activities?	Yes, IATRP had 3 join- sessions with Biodiversity/Ecology section. IATRP recently edited a special issue of IAPA on Trade Impact Assessment. Several members of IATRP are involved with developing Impact Assessment of Trade guidance, procedures and methodologies.

Is there a basis for section activity	Currently there are 2 active members in 'core group' at one time we had 5-8 but funding and the international state of impact assessment of trade has resulted in limited involvement.
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Questions:

What is the added value of the section to IAIA?

Trade Impact Assessment brings another element and perspective to impact assessment.

What is its potential?

Trade Impact Assessment is in its infancy and will be useful as long as countries sign agreements on trade and trade-related policies.

Is the importance of the section temporary (e.g. for agenda setting) or permanent?

Permanent

How are relations with other sections, with IAIA as a whole?

For IAIA'08 IATRP has taken a bold step and suggested that trade impact assessment professionals present their papers at other sections.

How specific or general is the section's scope (or: how broad or narrow is its work field)?

Trade impact assessment is very broad in that it encompasses all aspects of impact assessment.