

# Impact Assessment and European Added Value

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EPRS services in the fields of Impact Assessment and European Added Value help to strengthen the European Parliament's capacity for **scrutiny and oversight of the executive** at the successive stages of the legislative and policy cycles – from the evolution and proposition of EU law and policy to its implementation, enforcement and effectiveness in practice – so contributing to the quality of law-making itself. They support parliamentary committees in their work in these fields – notably on European added value, ex-ante impact assessment and ex-post evaluation – including in the identification, quantification and justification of parliamentary initiatives, and on the implementation and effectiveness of EU law and policies in practice.

The **Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value** is organised in **six units** dealing with various aspects of ex-ante or ex-post evaluation of EU legislation and policies, as well as undertaking foresight work, whether in the fields of science and technology or wider global trends. During 2016, the Directorate produced over 140 publications, with work undertaken for 17 parliamentary committees.

## POLICY CYCLE AS A WHOLE

The Directorate acts as an **information and analysis centre on ex-ante and ex-post work** being done by the Parliament, European Commission and other bodies, and it provides analytical material on such policy-cycle issues, preparing notably horizontal **Rolling Check-lists** or databases, to provide key reference material, in easily accessible form, to assist parliamentary committees in deciding what type of scrutiny to engage in, and when and how best to undertake it.

## EX-ANTE EVALUATION

The **European Added Value Unit** analyses the potential benefit of future action by the European Union through **Cost of Non-Europe Reports** in policy areas where greater efficiency or a collective public good could be realised through common action at European level; it provides **European Added Value Assessments** to underpin legislative initiative reports put forward by parliamentary committees; and it identifies the added value of existing EU policies in practice.

The **Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit** analyses the quality of impact assessments (IAs) produced by the European Commission – in the form of **Initial Appraisals** of these documents, which are routinely supplied to parliamentary committees in advance of their consideration of new legislative proposals – and then offers the committees a range of follow-up services, including more detailed appraisals of Commission IAs, substitute or complementary IAs, and IAs on parliamentary amendments.

All EPRS publications are available at [www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank)



## EX-POST EVALUATION

The **Ex-Post Evaluation Unit** assists parliamentary committees in their ex-post evaluation work, notably by providing: (i) short **Implementation Appraisals** of the operation of existing EU legislation in practice, whenever a new proposal to update such legislation is foreseen in the Commission's Annual Work Programme: these appraisals are delivered to the relevant parliamentary committee in advance of the latter's consideration of the new proposal in question; (ii) longer and more detailed **European Implementation Assessments** on how specific existing EU laws or policies operate in practice, drafted each time that a parliamentary committee undertakes an own-initiative Implementation Report on an existing EU policy or law, providing a detailed analysis of the experience to date; and (iii) any other analyses or studies on implementation issues as required.

The **European Council Oversight Unit** monitors and analyses the delivery of the European Council in respect of the commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings, as well as of its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. It maintains a **Rolling Check-list** of all such commitments and/or responsibilities, provides routine briefing notes on their degree of attainment within the Council system, and undertakes detailed research in fields related to the latter.

## FORESIGHT

The **Scientific Foresight Unit** (STOA) undertakes **science and technology options assessment** and analyses emerging policy issues and trends in these fields. It undertakes a broad range of forward-looking studies, workshops and other activities, at the request of the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel of 25 Members of the European Parliament, nominated by nine parliamentary committees, and it provides the secretariat of the latter body.

The **Global Trends Unit** identifies, tracks and analyses long- and medium-term global trends – especially changes in the international economic, social or political environments – which may affect policy-making in the European Union, keeping Members informed about such trends and their potential implications, through briefings and seminars. It also supports the Parliament's participation in administrative-level dialogue with other EU institutions on such trends – notably through the European Strategy and Policy Analysis (ESPAS) process – and facilitates contact more widely with outside organisations, notably think tanks and universities, working in this field.

## OUR ORGANISATION

