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# Environmental Impacts in EU Impact Assessments

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## Purpose of the study

- ▶ Overview of **Impact Assessment practice** in the EU
- ▶ Evaluation of consideration of **environmental impacts**
- ▶ **Weighting** of environmental, social and economic impacts
- ▶ Lessons for **IA framework development**



## Methodology

- ▶ **IA report analysis:** Analysis of 12 IA reports including EPRS Briefings and other relevant documents

### Topics of Assessment

Description of Regulation

System Boundaries

Stakeholder

Options

Environmental Effects

Quantification

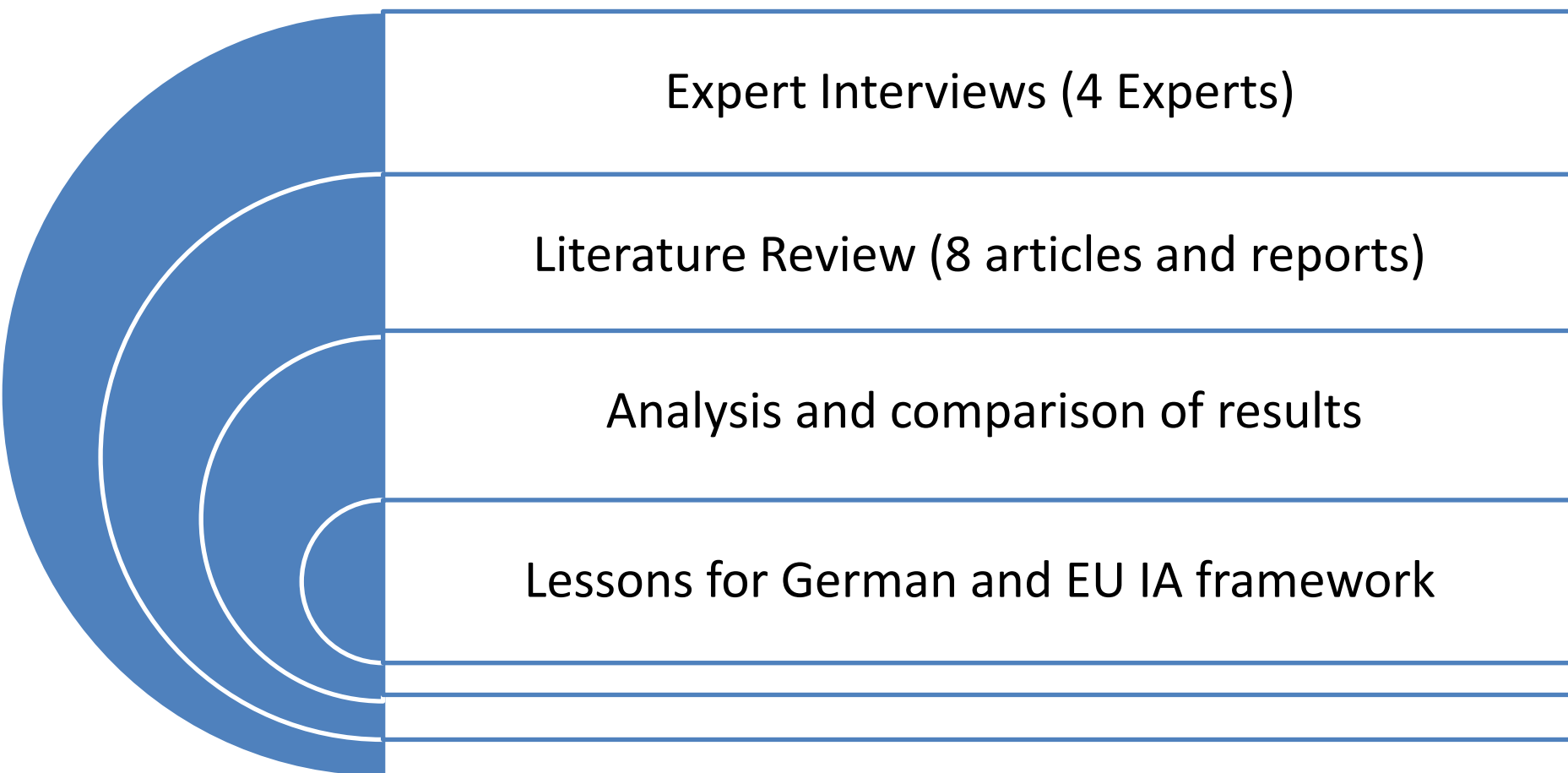
Monetisation

Methodologies

Relevance for decision making



## Methodology II – other steps



## The EU Impact Assessment Process

- ▶ Short **guidelines** with more support in tool box
- ▶ **Political validation** before starting IA
- ▶ Inclusion in **Commission Work Plan**
- ▶ Preparation of Inception IA with an **Interservice Group**
- ▶ Draft IA and approval by **Regulatory Scrutiny Board**

## Results I – Importance in the decision process

- ▶ IA well **established** in EU **legislative process**
- ▶ Environmental effects matter in **environmental legislations**, less in others
- ▶ **Institutional leadership** influences weight of different impacts in analysis



## Results II – Choice of options

- ▶ **Broad set of options** often considered
- ▶ **Different options** sometimes just **slight variants** with similar environmental impacts
- ▶ **Cost differences** often **more important**
- ▶ **Scoping process** and **selection of options** not always transparent





## Results III – Organisational conclusions

- ▶ **Silo thinking** still a problem
- ▶ Early forming of the **Interservice group** could be one solution
- ▶ Biggest challenge: **time pressure**
- ▶ Improvement of IA quality with introduction of IA Board



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## Results IV – Coverage of environmental impacts

- ▶ **Broad coverage** of environmental impacts
- ▶ **Indirect impacts** sometimes neglected
- ▶ Choice of impacts: **lack of transparency**



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## Results V – Quantification of environmental impacts

- ▶ **Generally well established**
- ▶ **Some gaps** for certain impacts
- ▶ Availability of data and models crucial



## Results VI – Monetisation of environmental impacts

- ▶ **Covered broadly only in a minority of IA**
- ▶ Focus on well-established impacts
- ▶ **Predominance of economic impacts**

## Main Findings – Summary

- ▶ Description of environmental effects adequate
- ▶ Monetization still an exception
- ▶ Predominance of economic impacts
- ▶ Broader options, but still institutional bias
- ▶ Transparency crucial for credibility



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# Thank you for your time and attention.

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