

The SIE in the VAN project

The Social Impact Evaluation (**SIE**) methodology has been included into the VAN project to complement RTD activities. Its aim is to shape VAN research in order to improve its Social Impact by reinforcing positive impacts and avoiding negative ones.

Social Impact can be understood as any effect or consequence on society that can be derived from the design and development of a RTD project or its outputs (goods/services), taking into account their whole lifecycle.

SIE: a wide range of benefits

The inclusion of the SIE contributes to:

VAN objectives:

By reinforcing the long-term success of the VAN project results. The inclusion of society as an important stakeholder fosters a wider "licence to operate" based on the project commitment with transparency and accountability.

VAN partners interests:

By providing additional perspectives for creativity, decision-making and interdisciplinarity. By representing a source of community relationship building.

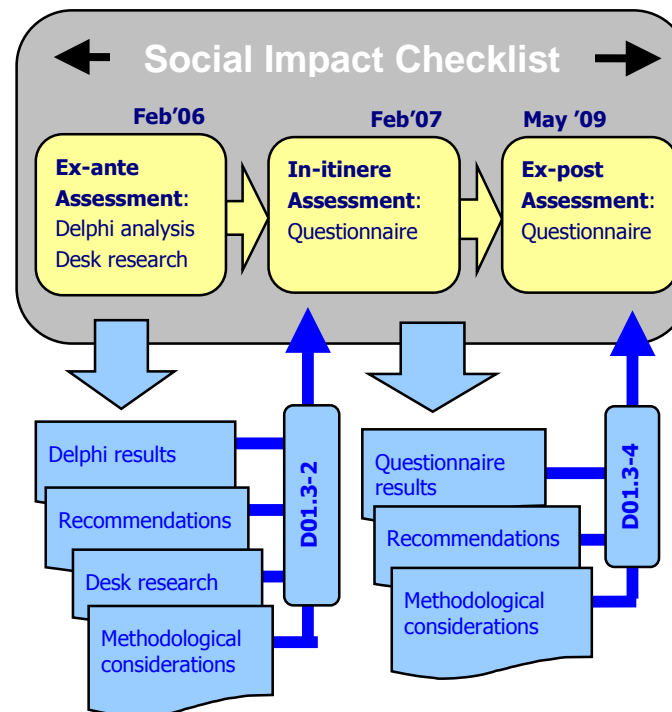
European Commission challenges:

By allowing a better inclusion of societal issues in RTD management as the Framework Programme claims.

VAN SIE up to now & future

The SIE carried out in the VAN project consists of three phases: ex-ante, in-itinere and ex-post assessments. Both the ex-ante and the in-itinere have been already carried out based on a Social Impact Checklist that was sent to one representative of each organisation from the VAN consortium.

These two phases have as main results the detection by VAN partners of 26 out of the 27 potential social impacts and the provision of a set of overall, practical and methodological recommendations. Further information can be found in deliverables D01.3-2 and D01.3-4, respectively.



The ex-post assessment, to be done by the end of the project, will analyse:

- ◆ The Social Impact of the VAN project at the end of his life.
- ◆ The inclusion of the SIE methodology into the VAN project.
- ◆ The way the SIE has been implemented and its barriers, pros and cons.

The Ex-Post Assessment Process

The ex-post assessment will be based on a questionnaire addressed to one representative from each organisation of the VAN consortium. This questionnaire will gather information about:

- ◆ Partners' perspectives regarding Social Impacts related to the VAN project (examples, good practises and recommendations).
- ◆ The inclusion of the SIE methodology into the VAN project and partners' opinion about this methodology.

Bearing the ex-post assessment in mind, it is advisable to keep internal tracking of the SIE inclusion into VAN activities and of the findings regarding Social Impacts that could derive from the VAN project and its outputs.

This internal tracking, based on the VAN researchers' experiences, will serve not only to prepare the information required for the ex-post deliverable (D01.3-4); but also to reinforce the presence of social considerations into the VAN decision-making processes.

Social Impact Checklist

Domain	Impact
Environment	1.Environmental regulation
	2.Energy saving
	3.Renewable energy
	4.Raw materials consumption
	5.VAN products end-of-life
System of innovation	6.Resources
	7. Innovative actors empowerment
	8. Technology shock
	9. Knowledge diffusion
	10. Interdisciplinary
	11. Alternative or additional use of the technology
	12. Public understanding of S&T
Society	13. Public participation
	14. Conflicts related to social values
	15. Co-operation
Economic issues	16. SMEs innovation process
	17. Sectors not directly involved in VAN
	18. Regional cohesion
	19. Jobs creation / destruction
Employment	20. Jobs loss
	21. New skills and competence
	22. Employment substitution
	23. Employment displacement
	24. Enterprise creation
	25. Inclusion
	26. Safety and health at work
	27. Employee's trust

Five domains of the SIE

Environment: Inclusion of environmental issues into the VAN processes and products (eco-design, energy efficiency, energy and material saving, etc.)

Society: End-users' quality of life & safety, social development, universal design and societal relationships.

Innovation System: Innovation systems structure and culture (human capital, innovative actors empowerment, alternative use of the technology—in relation to innovation system structure—; and corporate innovation culture and technology shock—in relation to innovation system culture—).

Employment: Employment creation and transformation (displacement and substitution effects, human health and safety).

Strategic Economic Issues: The endogenous and/or geographically balanced development, the SMEs empowerment.

For more details please check:

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