Environmental Impact Assessment

Course Instructor: Prof. Dr. Johann Köppel
Secr.: EB 5
Email: Klaus.Klisch@tu-berlin.de

Module Description

1. Qualification Objectives

The goal of this course is to enable students:

- to be able to apply the main instruments of environmental impact assessment in practical planning situations as based on fundamental knowledge provided in the bachelor's degree program,
- to gain expertise about the contents and planning processes of instruments such as impact mitigation regulation, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), EU Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA),
- to recognize ecological needs and plan accordingly, and to identify interfaces with ecological disciplines,
- to be able to apply planning instruments both in domestic as well international arenas
- to be able to judge the different instruments in their effectiveness and know how to generate appropriate research when needed,
- to identify and formulate research approaches in the further development of planning instruments,
- to identify and analyze aspects of gender mainstreaming in planning processes.

This course offers predominantly:
Professional expertise 40%
Methodological expertise 40%
Systems thinking 10%
Social competence 10%.

2. Module Contents

The module addresses impact mitigation regulation, EU Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) including the Appropriate Assessment (AA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of plans and programs in Germany, Europe and beyond. Strategic Environmental Assessment will be discussed in the context of technical planning (e.g. road construction projects, waste management, etc.). In general, students will be supplied with research materials to facilitate a comparison of instruments such as impact mitigation regulation in Germany and the Wetland Mitigation Act in the United States, as well as different EU Habitat Regulations Assessment schemes across Europe.

The scope of screening, the given “subjects of protection”, and the relevant decision-making processes comprise the initial focus of the module. Other subjects to be handled in the course include a supplementary landscape conservation plan, an Appropriate Assessment, an Environmental Impact Study (EIS), and finally an Environmental Report (document of the SEA) for technical planning. What planning and assessment methods can be applied and what subjects of protection should be considered? How can such necessary assessment questions be appropriately handled and how do these apply to relevant trends in impact assessment worldwide? In this sense reference to ecological issues such as biodiversity conservation should also be made. What is the role of public administration and public participation in national and international settings? Questions about monitoring and so-called “follow-up studies” will be addressed and examples of impact prevention, mitigation, and compensation will also be discussed. Recent international developments and requirements of various planning instruments will be presented, including, e.g. the expansion of test procedures to include a “Sustainability Appraisal” or the ability to use German planning expertise in the international arena. Finally, recent research topics and projects will be presented and discussed.
3. Module Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>LV-Type</th>
<th>Credit Hours SWS</th>
<th>Credit Points LP</th>
<th>Mandatory(P)/ Elective(W)</th>
<th>WiSe/ SoSe</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact Mitigation Regulation and EU Habitat Regulations Assessment</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>WiSe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>WiSe</td>
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4. Teaching Methods and Modes of Instruction

The integrated lecture is based on lecture blocks, which will be enriched with several practical exercises, short essay assignments, homework and literary research. Current German and English publications supplement the self-study aspect of the course.

In the section on “Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)”, students will act out a planning game, in which participants take on different roles in a practice-oriented planning situation. Gender issues can also be integrated into the exercise. The final credits for the course component “Impact Mitigation Regulation and EU Habitats Regulations Assessment” will be arranged individually in agreement with the course instructor.

Both course components are held in English.

5. Prerequisites for Module Participation

a) mandatory: Diploma (Dipl.) or Bachelor’s Degree from appropriate fields of study
b) desired: fundamental knowledge of the basics of landscape planning
   (Planning instruments, content and processes, legal frameworks)

6. Applicability

This module is mandatory for the Master’s Degree in Environmental Planning (Umweltplanung) and is offered as a mandatory-elective for Master’s Degrees in Urban Ecosystem Sciences and Landscape Architecture. The module is also suitable for students of Master’s Degree programs in Urban and Regional Planning and Urban Design.

7. Workload and Overview of Credits

The workload for 6 LP Credit Points is equivalent to a total of 180 hours (ca. 1 LP for 30 h working time), which includes:

Contact time: Σ 60 h
IV: 1 x 2 SWS x 15 Weeks = 30 h
IV: 1 x 2 SWS x 15 Weeks = 30 h

Self guided study (including preparation time for final exam): Σ 120 h
IV: 1 x 60 h
IV: 1 x 60 h

8. Examination and Grading Format

Oral exam

9. Module Duration

The course can be completed in one semester.

10. Estimated Number of Course Participants

30

11. Registration Formalities

a) Registration for module: There will be a sign-up roster at the beginning of the course.
b) Registration protocol for final examination: see examination regulations for Master’s Degree
12. Lecture Notes and Required Literature

- Textbook available: yes

When yes, where can the textbook be purchased? Bookstore
Lecture notes will be made available on-line: http://www.umweltpruefung.tu-berlin.de/

Additional Literature:

Journals:
- Journal for Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal
- Naturschutz und Landschaftsplanung
- UVP-Report

13. Additional Information