

Module 3:

Environmental impact evaluation

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Description

The plants for electric energy production that works with fossil fuels are subject to Environmental Impact Valuation (VIA) at a national or regional level, depending on their size. The rules regulating this evaluation have been recently modified: both the administrative procedures and the roles of the actors involved have changed. Projects that are carried out with renewable sources plants have no specific national regulation, even if some guidelines are being made. Only some Italian regions have issued *ad hoc* norms.

New rules, issued to comply with Kyoto Protocol, have underlined the need to elaborate new planning instruments at regional and local level for the energy matter. These plans should be accompanied, in conformity with Directive 42/2001 CE, by a Strategic Environmental Evaluation (VAS), able to guarantee the sustainability of the environmental effects of the actions undertaken also in relation to the environment and the socio-economic context.

The VAS, applied to regional or sub regional energy plans, should take into consideration and should evaluate the environmental effects of alternative development scenarios (i.e. large plants production or on-site production, different mix of renewable and non renewable energies, interventions on the demand side,..) and should also report about the procedures used in order to aim the targets of energy saving and the use of renewable energies (set by norms and plans at different levels: local, regional, national).

In this context, the relations between energy planning (local and regional) and other instruments, such as asset and management plans of the area, are really important.

Programme

- Valuation methods
- International VIA and VAS scenario
- National VIA and VAS scenario
- Energy plants evaluation and management
- VIA for traditional energy sources
- VIA for renewable energy sources
- Integrated instruments for evaluation and management of the impacts
- Problems and critical states of the evaluation