

Assessing impacts of disruptive technologies (IAIA TA 2020 Prague)

Joint Symposium by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and Global Technology Assessment Network (globalTA)

Global co-organizers:

International Association for Impact Assessment (Emerging Technologies Section)
Global Technology Assessment Network

Local organizing partners:

Czech University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Environment, Czech Republic
Integra Consulting Ltd., Prague, Czech Republic
Technology Center of the Czech Academy of Sciences
Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Institute of Technology Assessment of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

Theme

The symposium plans to explore:

- Key emerging technologies that may have potentially significant societal impacts that could be in the future embedded in development policies, plans, programs and projects that are subject to impact assessments.
- Analytical and participatory approaches used in technology assessments for the respective technologies during their development.
- Analytical and participatory approaches that may be used in future impact assessment processes prior deployment of these technologies.
- Potential linkages between high-level technology assessment processes (as currently practiced) with lower-level impact assessments that could be in the future used to support decision-making on the actual deployment of these technologies.
- Opportunities for greater collaboration between both professional communities.

The symposium will be organized through several (4-6) parallel streams (typical session having only max 30 participants to permit in-depth debate) dedicated to emerging technologies that may have potentially significant societal impacts¹. We tentatively expect to focus on the following tech/innovation areas (subject to further changes by the Program Committee):

- Internet of Things
- Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmic Decision-making Systems,
- Autonomous Transport and Next Gen Logistical Systems,
- Industry 4.0
- Agriculture 4.0 and/or Forestry 4.0
- Energy Systems (incl. Hydrogen Economy)
- Synthetic Biology

¹ Societal impacts hereby refer to impacts on economic, social or environmental conditions, including subsets of these – e.g. privacy, health, climate change, etc.

Planned Sessions

Each of the above technologies will be explored through a stream of sessions that will systematically discuss the following issues:

- Introductory sessions by TA practitioners to obtain information on characteristics of the emerging technologies and outcomes of TA processes in the given field. Presenters at these sessions will be encouraged to formulate critical questions to be debated either during their sessions or at subsequent sessions.
- Facilitated sessions to discuss the key questions posed to the symposium (through workshops, World Cafes and/or panels). A possibility will be given to hold few Indaba sessions on ad hoc issues of interest that may arise only during the conference.
- Concluding sessions to discuss methodological/procedural issues of interest (again through workshops, World Cafes and/or panels). These sessions may e.g. explore similarities and differences in TA and IA approaches, potentially mutually reinforcing relationships between TA and IA systems, and opportunities for cooperation between TA and IA professional communities.

Proposed symposium location and date

2nd or 3rd week of Sept 2020

Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic – the same venue in Prague as used for IAIA SEA 05 and IAIA SEA 11.

Anticipated number of attendees.

100-150 participants

Tentative timeline

- Formation of Program Committee and Organizing Committee by 30 Jan 2020)
- First announcement and invitation of abstracts for open sessions (15 Feb 2020)
- Deadline for abstracts (15 May 2020)
- Selection of abstracts and preparation of the Final Program (15 June 2020)
- Symposium (Sept 2020)

Participants' registration can open in March 2020 (not to conflict with IAIA 20 Seville).