AFE-INNOVNET TOWARDS AN AGE-FRIENDLY EUROPE

Social, Economic and Environment Impact Tool – SEE-IT: A protocol for European Regions, Local Authorities, and Communities

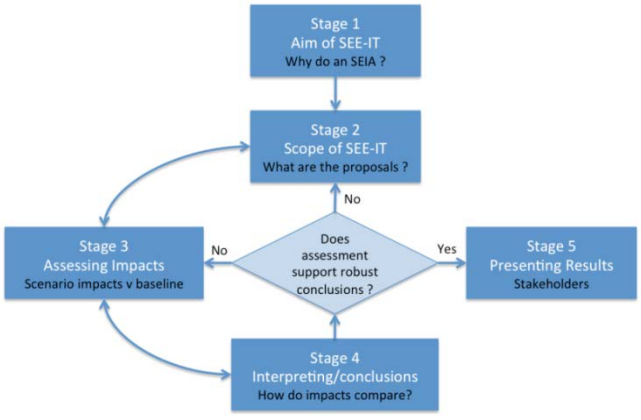
Why?

To enable national, regional and local authorities to do better ex-ante and ex-post evaluations of their Age-Friendly Environment (AFE) innovations, the AFE-INNOVNET Thematic Network has developed the SEE-IT: Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact Tool. It provides a conceptual framework to support cyclic, iterative processes of improvement and fine-tuning, undertaken by teams comprising multiple stakeholders from different sectors and disciplines and including strong community participation.

What is the SEE-IT?

SEE-IT is an iterative process supporting a comparative exercise, where a development team compare a baseline assessment of the current situation (today) with some future state(s) defined as functions of various proposed actions or interventions. The current state, or baseline, represents a situation where 'no explicit actions' are taken (in-action), and existing forces or trends that are currently in play continue to interact and unfold. The goal of the appraisal is to try to ex-ante predicting or forecasting the possible impacts and consequences, direct and indirect, positive and negative, of proposed future policy or project actions (scenarios).

What is the process?



1st stage: it is the most critical as it sets the overall direction and extent for the impact assessment exercise. The two key tasks in this stage are:

1. To identify and define the **core problem or goal** to be addressed by the impact assessment:
    - What is the nature and extent of the addressed challenge?
    - What are the key affected/target populations?
    - What are the current trends/drivers/causes?

The AFE-INNOVNET project is funded under the ICT Policy Support Programme (GA 620978)

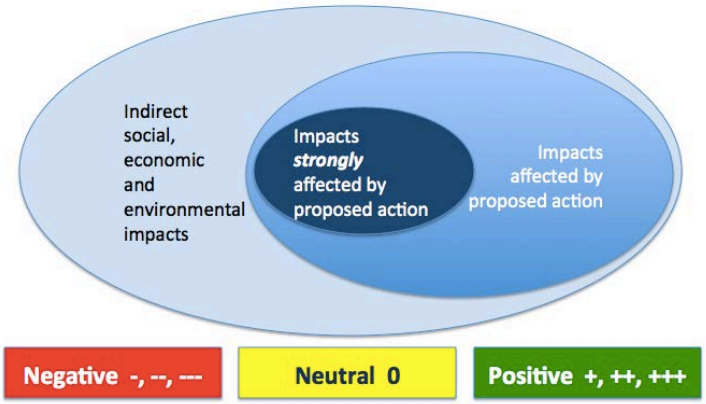
2. To define the principal aims and objectives to be addressed by the proposed policy, programme or project. In this task, **objectives** should be set ranging from the **general** to the **specific** and to the **operational**. Moreover, it is important to check the levels of coherence of the objectives with other regional and/or local strategies and plans across the main authorities and public service providers.

2nd stage:

1. Organising the work:
    a. **Plan** the assessment roadmap.
    b. Set-up the development **team**: ideally a multi-stakeholder committee and representation of older people (you can consult the guidelines on how to involve older people in the co-production of age-friendly environments in the AFE-INNOVNET website*).
    c. Determine **initial data** gathering/consultation approach.
2. Define the **base-line scenario**: the team should define the current situation considering the existing policies and initiatives and any expected effects of recent policies or plans. Essentially, the baseline description should set out how serious the problem is if it is not addressed, and whether there are irreversible consequences if it is not addressed soon (the cost of doing nothing).
3. Set **boundaries** for SEE-IT: spatial, time, stakeholders and desired outcomes and impacts.
4. Define **future scenarios**: the team should identify solutions, establish cross-links between solutions and define a list of valid options for further analyses on the basis of an initial set of evaluation criteria (agreed by the team).

3rd stage: in this stage the team identify **direct and indirect impacts**, for that, the experience and knowledge of the stakeholders involved in the process are crucial. Some examples of AFE initiatives impact are:

- Social impacts: health and longevity, safety, life-long learning, quality and social integration, etc.
- Economic impacts: investment flows, public budgets, market mechanisms, innovation, property rights, etc.
- Environmental impacts: natural environment, culture, housing, sustainable transport, etc.



* http://afeinnovnet.eu/sites/default/files/AFE-INNOVNET_D4.3_FINAL.pdf

The team may need to gather additional data from the previous stages, from the AFE impact framework where the AFE is implemented, data from checklists and data from models / simulations (where available). Then, the AFE impacts should be assessed using **indicators** that respond to the following characteristics: to represent relative importance, to provide an appropriate level of detail, to respond to the timeline agreed at the beginning of the process, and to be reliable. The complete version of the guide proposes some available indicators (as the Active Ageing Index) as well as the collection of own data (when no data is available in the region affected). Not all the impacts will be **measured** in monetary terms, the SEE-IT recommend expressing each impact in the more suitable unit of measure and converting them to money. For that, the guide also proposes some approaches and mechanisms.

4th stage: in this stage all the found options and data should be compared and interpreted in the three different domains (social, economic and environmental) between the situations before and after the proposed AFE initiative. The SEE-IT proposes the following table for the comparison to make easier the achievement of robust conclusions:

	POLICY/PROPOSAL/SCENARIO A		POLICY/PROPOSAL/SCENARIO B	
Economic Domains of Impact	**Nature of impacts on resources/assets**	**Impact Assessment**	**Nature of impacts on resources/assets**	**Impact Assessment**
Economic prosperity	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
Investment flows	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
Public budgets/services	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++
Market mechanisms	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0
Innovation, R&D	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0
Sustainable consumption & production	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
Property Rights	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0
Social Domains of Impact	**Nature of impacts on capabilities**		**Nature of impacts on capabilities**	
Health and Longevity	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
Safety	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+++	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0
Productive and valued activities	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+++	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
Standard of living of older people	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0
Education / Life-long learning	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+++	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++
Quality of social interaction	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++
Private and family life	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
Personal data	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	-	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	-
Basic rights and responsibilities	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0
Enviroment Domains of Impact	**Nature of impacts on Envionment**		**Nature of impacts on Envionment**	
Natural environment	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
Culture, heritage and leisure	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
Land use	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0
Climate & energy	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	0
Renewable resources/waste	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	-	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	-
Settlement – urban/rural	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	-
Housing	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	++
Sustainable transport	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+	Advantages/disadvantages/improvements	+
OVERALL EVALUATION		++ to '+++		+to '++

Requires consideration – not simple aggregation as impacts may want to be weighed .

5th and final stage: the results of the assessment should be presented to the stakeholders and, in some cases, to the wider general public.

Consult the complete version of the protocol to know practical sections of SEE-IT used by local and regional authorities and review useful resources as EC reference set of impact areas for social, economic and environmental spheres, data sources and data gathering.

This is a summary of the Deliverable 4.2. *Methodology and indicators for LRAs to assess socio-eco impact* developed in the framework of the AFE-INNOVNET project by R. Bond, M. Ferri, W. van Staalduinen, J. Garcés, M. Hinkema from Netwell Centre DKIT University, Polibienestar Research Institute – UVEG and TNO.