

Impact Assessment and transport infrastructure: examples from France



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Purpose of the Presentation

Focus on Large Linear Projects

The presentation concentrates on impact assessment for large linear transport projects like roads and railways in France.

Regulatory Complexity and Legal Tradition

France combines strong environmental laws with complex regulations guiding infrastructure and public participation.

Challenges in Project Development

The presentation highlights challenges including social opposition despite formal environmental procedure completion.

Future Regulatory Perspectives

Future reforms aim to simplify procedures, reduce uncertainty, and maintain high environmental standards.







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Projects take 10 to 30 years in France



And still face strong opposition



What if impact assessment is not the problem?

What if it is part of the solution?



A real case: highway project in France

10+ years of procedure

Legally approved

But strongly contested



Why?



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Procedures do not create acceptance



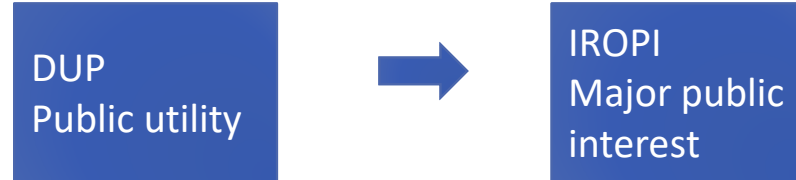
Impact assessment must build trust

But the system is becoming more complex

DUP ≠ IROPI

DUP Explanatory Note Uncertainty

The DUP requires a justification note without a precise legal definition, causing variability and legal uncertainty in its preparation.



IROPI Justification Challenges

IROPI justification is required for environmental authorization but lacks a clear legal definition, complicating project approvals.

Public utility ≠ major public interest

Independent Legal Frameworks

DUP and IROPI stem from separate legal codes, requiring independent assessments that can cause delays and litigation risks.



This leads to uncertainty, delays, risks

So what is the real challenge?



The real challenge is :

Demonstrating public interest

Not assuming it

Future:

Recognize it earlier

**Reduce conflicts |
Build acceptance**

3 Takeaways

**Impact
assessment
is strategic**

**Complexity
is
increasing**

**Trust
is key**



Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.

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