Training TA Practitioners:

Sharing, Experimenting and Producing Good Practices

Danielle Bütschi, Zoya Damianova and Ventseslav Kozarev

Zentrum für Technologiefolgen-Abschätzung
Centre d'évaluation des choix technologiques
Centro per la valutazione delle scelte tecnologiche
Centre for Technology Assessment

TA SWISS

ARC FUND

PACITA

- Introduction

- Goals and set up of the practitioners trainings

- Practitioners trainings from the participants' perspective

- Added value for the TA community

- Conclusions

Enhancing capacity for knowledge-based policy making

"PACITA aims at increasing the capacity and enhancing the institutional foundation for knowledge-based policy-making on issues involving science, technology and innovation, mainly based upon the diversity of practices in Parliamentary Technology Assessment (PTA)."

Practitioners trainings:

- a tool for TA professionals to develop and further enhance their capacities and skills for doing TA

- a key element for strengthening and expanding the TA landscape in Europe

The story of practitioners meetings in TA

- First practitioners meetings have been organised within the EPTA network («Indian meetings»)

- Only for EPTA members

- No external funding (financed by the participating organisations)

- PACITA practitioners trainings based on the experiences made within EPTA.

PACITA

PACITA - Four practitioners trainings

Aim

- Build capacity for TA and share experiences in order to increase quality, efficacy and thus legitimacy of TA practices.

Participants

- TA practitioners

- Future TA practitioners (juniors or persons introducing TA in their country).

Format

- Mutual learning through presentation of good practices and projects, group exercises and role-playing.

PACITA

Programme and content of the PACITA practitioners trainings

4 interconnected sessions of 3 days each
(Lisbon 2011, Sofia 2012, Vilnius 2013, Prague 2014):

Each session focused on one phase of a TA project, which is at the same time often challenging to TA professionals:

1. Identification and framing of the issue to be dealt with

2. Design of a TA project and the choice of the relevant method(s) for meeting the project's goal

3. Necessity and challenges of involving actors in TA projects

4. Communication strategies and tools

PACITA

Added value for participants

- New knowledge on TA (2/3)

- New TA skills (1/2)

- Networking (5/6)

- Inspiration and new ideas for their work (5/6)

➢ **A unique opportunity for TA practitioners to share their practices, learn from each other and jointly develop a set of good practices.**

PACITA

Practitioners trainings for a strong and innovative TA community

TA is a very vivid community, which works with various approaches and methods so as to:

- Adapt to local social, political and cultural characteristics

- Integrate new developments in science, technology and innovation policies (innovation governance, RRI)

- Deal with the globalization of science and societies.

➢ It is important that TA professionals draw on a shared knowledge of what technology assessment is, how it works and what it can achieve.

PACITA

Expanding the TA landscape through training I

- For some countries, TA embodies an innovative approach to policy analysis and policy-making. In those countries, TA is **an emerging approach** that is being established by "TA promoters".

- Pending challenges:
  - Help policy makers understand better the role and benefits of TA; identify and involve TA supporters among stakeholders as early as possible;
  - Pursuade stakeholders in the benefits of keeping the entire policy design process transparent (from issue identification, to stakeholder interests, to policy alternatives and solutions);
  - Identify, review and adapt TA methodologies for the particular national/institutional context
  - There is a lack of institutional foundation: no formal organisation dedicated to TA.

PACITA

Expanding the TA landscape through training II

For the TA new comers, practitioners' trainings provided excellent opportunities for:

- shared learning

- developing expertise

- discovering new missions for TA

- adopting methods and matching them to critical issues

➢ **A crucial step for strengthening and expanding the TA landscape in Europe**

PACITA

Lessons learned and perspectives

- Funding is important, especially for «new comers»

- Develop written or digital material (manuals or good practices reports, online tools), so as to widen the audience and deepen certain TA issues or aspects.

- TA professionals not only need to learn from each other, but also from their addressees

  ➢ adapt the format so as to include policy-makers, journalists, etc.

- Issues for further TA practitioners trainings: technology scanning; theoretical considerations about TA; case studies.

PACITA

Thank you!

This presentation was based upon:

Danielle Bütschi, Zoya Damaniova, Blagovesta Chonkova and Ventseslav Kozarev (forthcoming). **"Training TA professionals: Enhancing capacity for knowledge-based policy making",** In: Klüver, L., Nielsen, R. Ø. and Jørgensen, M-L. (Eds.) (forthcoming): *Policy-Oriented Technology Assessment Across Europe. Expanding Capacities*. Palgrave Pivot, London.

For further inquiries, please contact:

Danielle Bütschi, TA-SWISS, danielle.buetschi@ta-swiss.ch

Zoya Damianova, ARC Fund, zoya.damianova@online.bg

PACITA