

## **The Quality and Functioning of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in the Evidence-based Policy-making Perspective**

The research project funded by the National Centre of Science aims to make a multidimensional evaluation of the quality of Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIA) which are formed in the course of the government's legislative process. RIA is a systematic, compulsory and coherent analysis of the evidence and impact of the proposed normative acts leading to an estimate of expected costs and benefits in economic, social and environmental terms. The RIA analysis is crucial for an evidence-based policy-making process because it utilizes reasonable assumptions and the empirical achievements of science. The RIA document accompanying the draft bill is a report of the results of this analysis. The end of the second decade of the use of RIA in Polish practice of law-making (jurisprudence) is approaching. Despite the prevalence of this instrument, we do not know what the quality of it is and how it affects the legislative process and the quality of law in Poland.

On the basis of public choice theory and agency theory (relationship principal – agent) the RIA can be seen as a bureaucratic control mechanism. If so, then its quality (defined precisely as the value of information for policymakers and the disclosure of the best possible information to it, thus reducing information asymmetry favouring bureaucracy) is essential for the functions of control. An alternative explanation, however, reduces the role of the RIA assessment to a tool to help reduce inflation of law (if so, the defined quality is not particularly important) or to an element of the negotiation process in the course of law-making.

The first stage of the research will be to create a database of features of the RIA to the bills passed in 2007-2015 and an assessment using the questionnaire method (scorecard). In the second stage, on a random subsample of RIAs of bills adopted by the Sejm (Polish parliament), will be applied the Author's test method, which consists in confronting the results of government studies reported in the RIA with the results of analyses of the effects of the same acts carried out by other entities examining legislation (performance test). The examination of the legislative process documentation will be led to better understand the role of inter-departmental consultations in the process of RIA development as well as the creation of law in Poland. At the last stage, the study will be complemented by the opinions of practitioners (panel of experts) on the results and conclusions of the findings, which will compare the results with the perception of the practitioners.

Thanks to the new use of quality testing methods in Poland, the project will allow for the quantification of the current development of the legal transplant which the RIA instrument represents. Although the primary goal of the project is to broaden the knowledge about the Regulatory Impact Assessment as a significant problem in the context of the creation of law and public policies, and the result of the research will be publications in scientific journals, nevertheless, the researchers hope that the findings could be used in discussions on the reform of the State, especially in terms of the regulatory system. The cognitive importance of this research project is intensified by the crucial role of good legislation and effective institutions in economic development.