



IAIA Expert Workshop Shaping the European Investment Bank's Future Orientations on Climate Action

Date: 19 April 2015 | Time: 9:00 to 16:00
Location: Firenze Fiera Congress & Exhibition Center, Florence, Italy
Room: Affari Adua 1

ANNOTATED AGENDA

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) is hosting a special workshop to provide a platform for experts in climate change and impacts assessment to review the European Investment Bank's (EIB) approach to supporting climate action (i.e., mitigation and adaptation). Climate action is a priority for EIB as demonstrated through its "Statement on Climate Action"¹ (2013). EIB is also one of the largest providers of global climate finance in support of low carbon and climate resilient growth. In light of recent market and policy developments, the EIB considers it timely to conduct a formal review of its approach to climate action. One of the objectives of this review is to develop a set of strategic orientations guiding the Bank's climate action activities in the future.

EIB's public consultation process for this review was launched in January 2015, with the publication of a consultation paper² that serves as basis for discussion during the consultation process. This formal consultation seeks to solicit views and input from a wide array of stakeholders on issues such as the Bank's climate due diligence, assessment tools, processes and procedures, the design and management of specific financial products, and on the Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility agenda and reporting.

The IAIA expert workshop will complement the EIB's broader consultation process. The objective of the workshop is to provide feedback on the EIB's current approach to climate action as well as ideas and expertise to the Bank's future orientations on climate, in particular as it relates to impact assessment and management. The objective of the IAIA workshop is to provide additional, more detailed input to the EIB's policy review process, as it relates to impact assessment and management.

The outcome of the IAIA workshop will be a brief report summarizing the ideas and recommendations that will help inform EIB's future policies related to climate action, notably on issues related to integration of the policies and implementation of practices. The workshop will be an excellent opportunity for experts to provide their perspectives directly to the EIB team that is leading the EIB's approach to climate action, thereby directly influencing climate finance policy in the European Union and in all projects and practices that the EIB supports across the world.

¹ To view the Statement go to
http://www.eib.org/attachments/strategies/statement_climate_action_en.pdf

² To view the consultation paper online go to
http://www.eib.org/attachments/consultations/eib_climate_action_call_for_public_views_en.pdf

Workshop Focus

The workshop will have three main topics of discussions:

1. EIB's overall approach to climate action and challenges of integrating climate action into policies and implementing them in practice
2. Integrated approach to climate action – the nexus between climate and the wider sustainability agenda
3. Climate change adaptation and risk assessment
4. Knowledge-sharing of climate action approaches

The workshop will open up with a broad discussion of the EIB's overall approach to climate action as laid out in its consultation paper, with a focus on the following EIB priority: ***To integrate climate considerations effectively into EIB activities and practices, including those related to the project cycle, the sector lending policies and the project-specific performance standards, as well as into the way the EIB manages its own facilities.***

The second theme for discussion will focus on how the EIB's approach to climate can be designed as a holistic approach that takes into account the different dimensions of climate change. The question is how themes such as biodiversity, ecosystems, resource efficiency, but also development or gender can be dovetailed into the EIB's approach to climate. It is especially, on this theme that the EIB is keen to have the view of experts who work at the crossroad between climate, environment and development.

The third area of focus for the workshop is the issue of climate change adaptation, risk assessment and resiliency. Workshop participants will be asked to discuss their ideas and experiences with approaches and tools that can be used in assessing and managing climate change risks, within the context of projects specifically.

Finally, the EIB is interested in experts' ideas regarding knowledge sharing tools. As the EIB works in many jurisdictions, with varying degrees of knowledge, experience and expertise, the Bank is seeking ideas on knowledge transfer.

Workshop Approach

The workshop discussions will largely take place in a plenary roundtable style. IAIA aims to provide a forum for experts to convene, sharing their views and expertise in a space that is open, honest and respectful, leading to constructive advice that will help advance policies and practices. The final report from the session will be written in a manner that will not associate the advice to any specific roundtable participant.

Workshop Participants

Invited participants are mainly IAIA members, with expertise or interest in climate change issues. The timing of this workshop coincides with IAIA's annual conference, taking place in Florence, Italy. This gathering of impact assessment experts at the conference offers the opportunity to convene a small group for discussion of the EIB's climate action approach. Experts invited to the meeting are mainly drawn from the list of presenters at this year's IAIA annual conference, specifically those who are giving presentations on the issue of climate change; as well as members from IAIA's Climate Change Section. As the aim of the workshop is to allow for some detailed discussion of EIB's Policy and practices, the group of experts was purposefully kept small.

DRAFT AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30	Coffee and registration
9:30 – 9:35	Welcome (<i>Miguel Coutinho, IAIA President</i>)
9:35 – 9:40	Workshop Overview (<i>Jill Baker, IAIA Executive Director</i>)
9:40 – 10:00	Opening Comments and Presentation of EIB Approach to Climate Action (<i>Matthias Zöllner, EIB</i>)
10:00 – 10:30	Roundtable discussion of EIB Approach to Climate Action (<i>Plenary</i>)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Health Break</i>
10:45 – 12:00	Discussion of EIB standard on climate change – areas for improvement, opportunities to seize; challenges of and possible solutions for implementing climate change policies into practice
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Adaptation risks and resilience: approaches and tools for assessment (<i>small breakout groups</i>)
14:00 – 14:30	Report back from group discussions
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Health Break</i>
14:45 – 15:45	Discussion of knowledge-sharing approaches and tools (<i>Plenary</i>)
15:45 – 16:00	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks (<i>Matthias Zöllner and Jill Baker</i>)