

NETLIPSE

There is an urgent need to further improve delivery of infrastructure projects, especially those schemes of significant size, involving multinational co-operation, complex engineering solutions and substantial funding demands. Investigations show many projects have experienced serious obstacles in planning, delivery and subsequent operation.

NETLIPSE is a network for knowledge exchange, research and training programmes, led by the Ministries of Transport of the UK and the Netherlands, and co-funded by the European Commission, aimed at addressing these issues.

NETLIPSE has membership across European States, plus academic institutions, project organisations and operators (it is easy to join - see overleaf). It has researched many road, rail (including high speed) and waterway projects to fully understand how such schemes are presently managed and to identify best practice.

Results are contained in the book 'Managing Large Infrastructure Projects', available at www.netlipse.eu.

One product emerging from this work is IPAT.

Infrastructure Project Assessment Tool (IPAT)

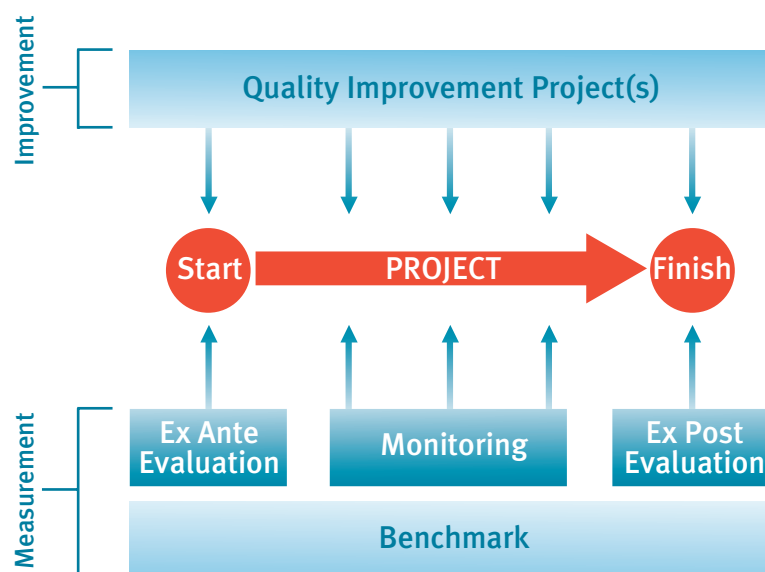
What is IPAT?

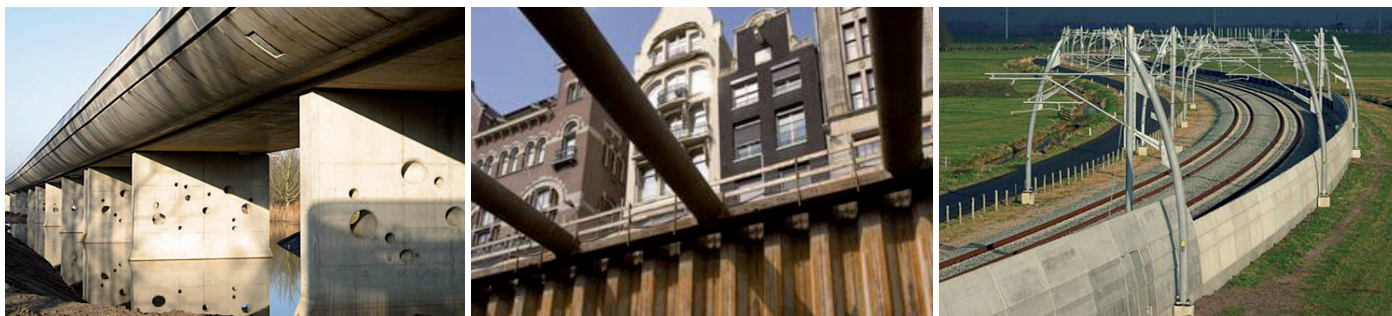
It is the Infrastructure Project Assessment Tool that can help to assess, monitor, benchmark and evaluate infrastructure projects, before, during and after implementation in a complete and uniform manner.

IPAT is aimed at Clients (EU, Central, Regional & Local Government), Funders (e.g. banks and pension funds), Project Delivery Organisations, plus research institutes. IPAT measures the capability of a project at all stages of its development and delivery. The results give an independent assessment of the project organisation, identifying strengths but also any weaknesses that need to be addressed to ensure success.

The IPAT-assessment focuses on 12 themes:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Political context | 7 Legal procedures |
| 2 Objectives, Purpose and Business Case | 8 Technology |
| 3 Functional Specifications | 9 Knowledge |
| 4 Interfaces | 10 Organisation and Management |
| 5 Stakeholders | 11 Contracting |
| 6 Finances | 12 Risks (Threats and Opportunities). |





Assessments

Assessments are carried out by qualified Assessors in conjunction with those responsible for the project. The work consists of gathering background information along with a series of interviews covering the issues that should be addressed at the particular stage of a project's life. The results are evaluated to give a quantified picture of the health of the project delivery organisation.

Examples:

- To what extent has work been carried out to give assurance that it is the right solution to the problem and there is a business case to support the investment?
- To what extent all interested parties (stakeholders) fully engaged as is necessary?
- To what extent are technological innovations properly managed?

Assessments can be initiated by the funder, client (sponsor) or the project delivery organisation.

Results

Results are shared with those who initiated the review and, as necessary, with others responsible for the project. The Assessment Report contains:

- 1 Key Overall Figures and Statistics (inc. finance)
- 2 Project Facts (scope, outputs, benefits)
- 3 Stakeholder Network
- 4 Project History
- 5 Assessment Results
- 6 Project Summary & Conclusions

Within the assessment, results are scores to show the relative strength of a project against the various activities that need to be conducted, along with recommendations for suggested improvements and how these can be implemented.

If a project is assessed at each stage of its life, the performance of the delivery organisation can be monitored and indeed benchmarked against other similar bodies.

Summary

IPAT is a means of providing constructive guidance and help to ensure greater chance of successfully delivering complex transport projects on time and to budget, adding to the quality of life throughout the European Union.

Contact Information

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