

Q&A about the SDG Impact Assessment Tool

Read the [SDG Impact Assessment Guide 1.0](#) for more instructions and inspiration.

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Question	Answer
Can we use this tool in our country?	The tool is freely available for everyone to use, globally!
How much time do you need to go through all the steps in the tool?	The level of ambition primarily controls the time required. To be able to go through and briefly reflect on all SDGs, one should count on two hours. Deeper analysis can take significantly more time than that.
What competencies should be included when making an assessment?	A simple starting point is to reason in terms of the three dimensions of sustainable development: environment, economy, and social. The challenge is to reason about how these affect each other via the 17 global goals.
Why is it important to write an introductory text about one's evaluation?	It is important to describe the analysis object, both for your own sake and for others who are likely to take part in the analysis. It is particularly important to describe the boundaries for what is included in the analysis and not. As in all analyses, the choice of boundaries has direct consequences for the result. Thus, this should be devoted some time initially.

<p>In what way can the tool help with our strategic work?</p>	<p>Through an SDG Impact Assessment, it is possible to identify relevant sustainability perspectives for your work and in what way they are relevant. In the tool, this is represented by impacts on the global goals either as positive or negative, directly or indirectly. Quite often, a first analysis needs to be supplemented by new knowledge. Detecting these knowledge gaps is a significant result in itself. Once this work is done, an organization will be better equipped to contribute positively to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and sustainable development.</p>
<p>Why is the tool based on a qualitative and not quantitative self-estimation?</p>	<p>Measuring sustainable development in quantitative terms comes with a large set of challenges, not least how different perspectives (impact on SDGs) should be balanced or weighted against each other. Reasoning and trying to argue about what are relevant to sustainability perspectives is of great help and its importance should not be underestimated. That is not to say that the tool excludes quantitative elements when that type of data is available - it is excellent to justify an identified impact with the support of such data.</p>
<p>Is it possible to use data that we already have when we do our assessment?</p>	<p>Of course. Conducting an SDG Impact Assessment involves starting with the knowledge you already have and sorting it according to the global goals.</p>
<p>Can companies use the tool to evaluate their own business?</p>	<p>Yes, an SDG Impact Assessment is an excellent tool for building an understanding of how an organisation can potentially influence and contribute to the achievement of the Global Goals. However, it can be a challenge for larger organizations with several parallel business areas. Then the analysis should be divided into appropriate sections, where each section constitutes its assessment.</p>

<p>In what ways have universities used the tool?</p>	<p>A university's activities can be somewhat generalized into the areas: education, research, and utilisation/collaboration. The tool has been successfully applied in all these areas. In education as an element of courses, in research to relate a research group or research area to the Global Goals, and in utilisation/collaboration as a tool to identify the need for interdisciplinary collaboration.</p>
<p>I want to evaluate a new product. How can I think?</p>	<p>To evaluate what we mean by a product in the classical sense, that it is something that is disseminated and used by others in society to satisfy a need, the context for the use needs to be described. We sometimes call this the "impact scenario", which means that the circumstances for the product to be spread and used should be specified.</p> <p>For example, where will the product be used, by whom, and to what extent? Does the use depend on something else having to happen - should that be part of the evaluation? Will the use result in side effects? Answering these questions will help find a reasonable boundary for the evaluation.</p>
<p>I work as an environmental/sustainability coordinator within a city or municipality and would like to test the tool. How can I think?</p>	<p>Try to find a reasonably limited part of the activities you are involved in to test out. Maybe you are facing a new investment or planning to make some changes? Gather a small group of colleagues and test the tool to try to identify risks and opportunities, and then consider how the outcome can be strengthened. Start by talking about the potential impact as openly and broadly as possible to tune down to the most relevant elements as you go along.</p>

<p>I am a student and would like to test the tool. How can I think?</p>	<p>As a student, there may be several reasons for conducting an SDG Impact Assessment. It is also an easy way to familiarize yourself with the Agenda 2030 framework and the 17 Global Goals, as a learning exercise.</p> <p>One way to use the tool is to conduct a sustainability assessment as part of a project in a course or program. Another way is to evaluate the content of a course - a way to match the content of the teaching in a course towards the Global Goals.</p> <p>Doing an SDG Impact Assessment with fellow students is a great way to spur an in-depth discussion on sustainable development based on a concrete example. How an analysis object should be defined, what do we mean by 'impact', how we distinguish between direct and indirect effects, and the extent to which our values play a role, are all useful challenges to consider!</p>
<p>I am a teacher and would like to test the tool in my teaching. How can I think?</p>	<p>In particular, we see two relevant uses for the tool in teaching: as a shorter element - a workshop - where students test the tool on clearly defined objects with the primary goal of learning more about the Global goals and getting a clue as to how they can be used in reality.</p> <p>Alternatively, as a tool in a larger project work where the focus is on performing a deeper sustainability analysis and where the result is of greater importance. Here, students will need guidance on how the analysis objects can be appropriately defined, how to distinguish between direct and indirect impact given the motive and purpose of the analysis, and with what level of ambition the impact should be described.</p>

<p>I am a private person and would like to test the tool to learn more about sustainable development. How can I think?</p>	<p>Step one may be to just look through the tool, read through each SDG, and try to build a sense of what perspectives are being raised. The next step may be to select an item in your everyday life, work, or something you have been thinking about in society and try to identify which SDGs you think are relevant. Maybe you have someone in your acquaintance who you can then test your conclusions on? Sustainable development is rarely black or white, and what is ultimately considered to be important is usually guided by your values.</p>
<p>I will be holding a workshop where we will use the tool. What do I need to think about?</p>	<p>Read the instructions on the tool's website and contemplate the content! Set aside enough time, try to mix participants with different skills as far as possible, and try to create a permissive atmosphere - initially there are no 'right' or 'wrong'. Don't spend too much time on each goal. See it as an ongoing process where you continue to develop each time you do an assessment.</p>
<p>I have created a new assessment but when I open it from the list of assessments, the page turns white. What can I do?</p>	<p>You might have used a front slash “/” or another special sign in the title. Delete that and try again.</p>
<p>I experience problems with my account. What can I do?</p>	<p>There are several things you can do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that you are using Chrome or Safari as web browser. • Delete all cookies on your computer and try again. • Login to your account from another computer. • Report the problem in the LinkedIn group. Others may have the same problem.

The website is down. What can I do?	Join the LinkedIn group for the latest updates. If no one has reported the problem, please let us know by writing a post in the LinkedIn group.
Is there any support in conducting the assessment?	<p>The tool is very easy to use. There are full instructions on the website of the tool. We also provide a user guide. At this point, we cannot provide support.</p> <p>Feel free to send your question to our LinkedIn group.</p>