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IMACON Project Appraisal and Monitoring Tool: approach and field experience

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Together with monitoring and evaluation, project appraisal is one of the key phases of the project cycle and project cycle management. Management decisions based on the data evaluation and monitoring of the project design have significant impact on the quality of any project or program.

While project evaluation is provided by various methodologies and tools, assessment of quality of project applications and manager's monitoring of implementation are much less equipped with relevant tools. Approaches to project appraisal from the business sector have limited suitability for use in projects and programs of local and international development, also in civil society sector.

The authors suggest a methodology IMACON, developed as a result of the conceptualization of experience and project appraisal practice. The methodology has been tested in a number of programs and projects, including implemented in countries with turbulent institutional environment.

IMACON methodology allows a comprehensive evaluation of the project proposal, pointing out the bottlenecks of the project concept and providing specific recommendations to improve the application before implementation start. It also gives an opportunity to anticipate threats. Our methodology also offers a visual comparison tool for proposals in decision-making about their support.

IMACON project appraisal tool is a versatile instrument and can be used in a variety of management situations – from self-evaluation (quality of project development) to the strategic monitoring of the project portfolio. The tool integrates existing international standards for evaluation. It allows to evaluate expected effectiveness of the project in terms of setting goals at different.