JACOBS, CORDOVA & ASSOCIATES
international leaders in regulatory reform

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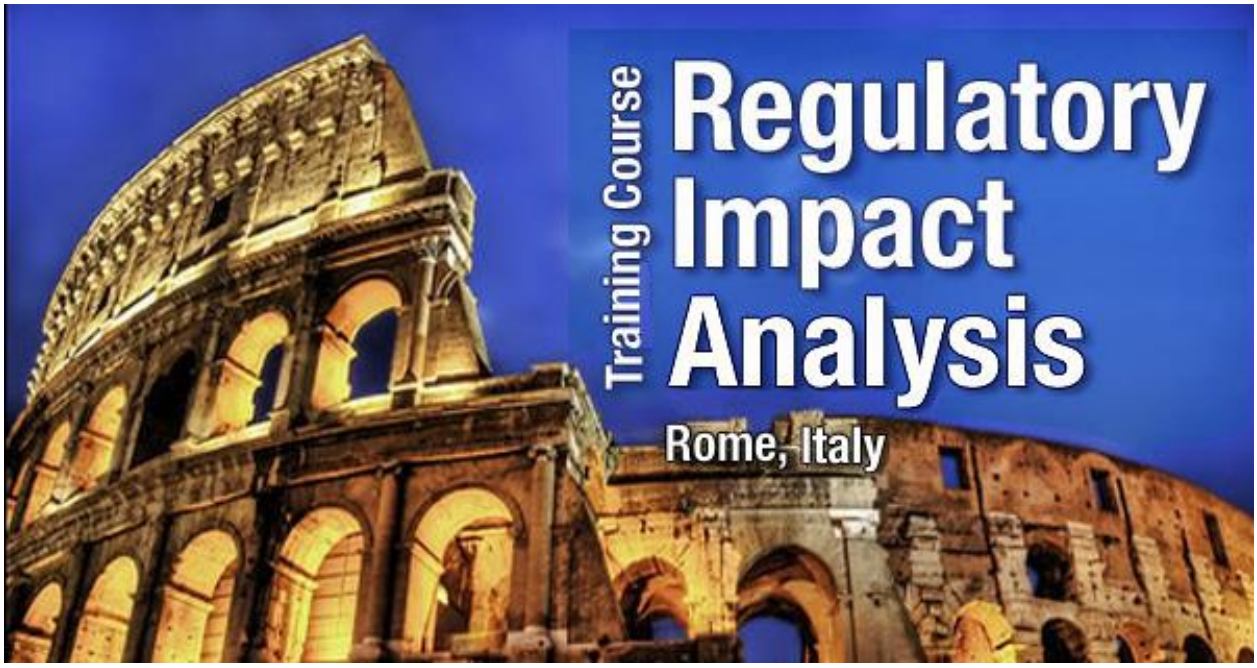

Applied RIA COURSE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Presented by
Jacobs, Cordova & Associates and LUISS
12-16 October 2020
Room 12, LUISS Campus, Rome, Italy

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MONDAY	
Registration	08:45 – 09:00
Official opening of the RIA training course by LUISS and introduction of the participants	09:00 – 09:15
Session 1. Introduction to the RIA Course: Goals and Methods **Presented by *Scott Jacobs* (JC&A)**	09:15 – 09:30
DEFINING RIA AND ITS RESULTS	
Session 2. What is RIA? An Overview of RIA, Goals, and Results **Presented by *Scott Jacobs* (JC&A)** Why is good regulation important to modern economies? We will examine the context for "better regulation" reforms, and then define RIA, review results seen in countries that have applied RIA, and identify the main features of a RIA system – dividing the RIA process into several steps, from problem definition to communication of the final results to ministers and the public.	09:30 – 11:00
Coffee break	11:00 – 11:15
THE FIRST STEPS OF RIA	
Session 3. Getting It Right From the Beginning: Defining the Problem and Setting the Baseline. Presented by *Scott Jacobs* (JC&A) The single most important step in RIA is correctly defining the policy problem. Regulators and law-makers often make mistakes at this stage that result in regulatory failure later on. We will review the most common reasons why regulations fail to achieve their goals, and discuss how such failures can be reduced through RIA based on better problem identification and identification of the baseline. Based on several real examples of costly regulatory failures, we will discuss how regulators can correctly identify the problem and its underlying causes. The second step is defining the baseline, that is, what would happen without government action. Mistakes can be avoided by applying some concepts.	11:15 – 12:30
Lunch	12:30 – 13:30
Session 3 continued	13:30 – 14:45
Coffee break	14:45 – 15:00

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Session 4. Basic RIA Concepts **Presented by *Scott Jacobs* (JC&A)** We will review basic concepts important to understanding the application of RIA. Concepts to be covered include: • What are regulatory costs and benefits? How do we know them when we see them? How do we measure them? What does value mean in RIA? • What happens when benefits and costs are asymmetric? • What are opportunity costs? And why do we care? • How do we deal with dynamic effects that cannot be quantified? • How do we deal with time?	15:00 – 17:00

TUESDAY	
Session 4. Basic RIA Concepts (continued) **Presented by *Scott Jacobs* (JC&A)**	9:00 – 10:00
Session 5. Putting RIA into Practice: Putting RIA into Practice: Choosing the Analytical Methods and Presenting the Analysis. Presented by *Scott Jacobs* (JC&A) We will examine the three most common analytical methods used in RIA, their strengths and weaknesses, and the kinds of problems and situations to which each is suited. • Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) • Cost-effectiveness Analysis (CEA) • Standard Cost Model (SCM) We will also discuss some common methods of partial analysis, including • Business (or small business) impact analysis • How can the distribution of impacts be included in RIA? We will also show how the impacts of each option are compared in the RIA to enable decision-makers to make relevant policy decisions.	10:00 – 11:00
Coffee break	11:00 – 11:15
Session 5. Putting RIA into Practice: Choosing the Analytical Methods and presenting the analysis (continued)	11:15 – 13:00
Lunch	13:00 – 14:00

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THE PRACTICE OF RIA	
Session 5. Putting RIA into Practice: Choosing the Analytical Methods and presenting the analysis (continued)	14:00 – 15:30
Coffee break	15:30 – 15:45
Session 6. Administrative burdens and the use of the Standard Cost Model: Concepts and interactive case study Administrative burdens on businesses and citizens are increasingly becoming a concern for competitiveness and job creation. Many governments have committed to measuring and reducing the administrative burden using a method called the "Standard Cost Model" (SCM), which is a bottom-up method of measuring the time needed to comply with administrative requirements and extrapolating from firms to entire economies. We will examine the use of the SQM – its strengths and limits – in this session. In the interactive case study, participants will break into smaller working groups and develop an administrative cost assessment as part of a RIA. Each group will present its cost assessment to the entire class. The session will end with a presentation on how the case was actually conducted and its conclusions, including a commentary by the instructors and participants.	15:45 – 17:15

WEDNESDAY	
Session 7. Consultation and data collection techniques for RIA **Presented by *Cesar Cordova* (JC&A)** Stakeholder consultation is an important strategy for quality control and data collection. We will discuss the means of consulting and communicating with stakeholders as part of carrying out the RIA, and how to avoid the pitfalls of poor consultation. Consultation is one method of collecting data for the RIA. One of the most costly and time-consuming RIA activities is the collection of data for the analysis. Data are scarce, costly, and never sufficient. Jacobs, Cordova & Associates has developed a set of good data collection practices that will save time and money, and improve the quality of data. We will examine these practical techniques to collect data for RIA.	09:00 – 11:00
Coffee Break	11:00 – 11:15

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Session 8. Mainstreaming RIA in the Policy Process: Institutional Strategies **Presented by *Cesar Cordova* (JC&A)** Governments need a clear RIA strategy aimed at the institutionalization of capacities and the creation of incentives within the machinery of government. Success which can only be assessed after 5-10 years rests on the choice of a proper implementation strategy, the setting up of effective institutions and procedures, as well as the use of a series of good RIA practices. We will examine each of these three dimensions, including: • Choosing institutional strategies to implement RIA • The need for common standards and quality control mechanisms • Transparency, accountability and other central principles for RIA deployment • Communication and the building of a political constituency for RIA • Institutional learning and evolution of RIA over time. • Training strategies	11:15 – 13:30
Lunch	13:30
***Free period.* Participants may tour Rome, or meet with instructors to discuss individual questions and review course materials**	13:30 -

THURSDAY	
Session 9. Examination of a Complete RIA **Presented by *Dr. Giacomo Luchetta* (LUISS and Economisti Associati)** This session will examine a complete RIA prepared by the European Commission, examining each step and discussing its strengths and weaknesses. Participants will see how each element of the RIA is presented, leading up to the conclusions and recommendations.	09:00 – 12:00
Coffee Break	10:45 – 11:00
Session 10. Assessing Alternatives to Traditional Regulation **Presented by *Scott Jacobs* (JC&A)** A vital but difficult part of RIA is the assessment of alternative policy instruments and different regulatory designs. We will examine how such alternatives can be systematically assessed and compared. Alternatives to be discussed include: • Information disclosure and education campaigns (labelling, quality marks, public campaigns) • Self-regulation and co-regulation (codes of practice, technical standards) • Third party regulation (mandatory inspections/audits by non-government parties) • Performance-based rules rather than means-based, including variants such as the Open Method of Co-ordination and Framework Directives • Market based instruments (taxes, subsidies, user charges, risk payments, insurance)	12:00 – 13:00
Lunch	13:00 – 14:00

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Session 11. Second Interactive Case Study: Labelling of Transfat in Food by the Food and Drug Administration, United States. Presented by *Scott Jacobs* (JC&A) In this interactive case study, participants will break into smaller working groups and develop the core elements (the problem definition, problems facing the analysts, choice of method, data collection, and presentation of benefits and costs) of a RIA for a regulation that would require labelling of transfat on foods to reduce consumption of this dangerous substance. Each group will present its RIA to the entire class. The session will end with a presentation on how the case was actually conducted and its conclusions, including a commentary by the instructors and participants.	14:00 – 17:30
Coffee Break	Coffee served from 15:30
Session 12. Stock-taking of the Course We will discuss the content of the course as it has met the expectations of participants and identify any issues that require more discussion or clarification on Friday.	17:30 – 17:45

FRIDAY	
Session 13. Course examination Participants will respond to a written examination of key concepts and issues covered by the course. The exam will assist each participant in identifying where additional study on RIA might be useful.	09:00 – 09:30
Session 14. Third Interactive Case Study on RIA on novel foods: Presented by *Dr. Giacomo Luchetta* (LUISS and Economisti Associati) In this interactive Case study, participants will break into smaller working groups and develop the core elements [the problem definition, problems facing the analysts, choice of method, data collection and presentation of costs and benefits] of a RIA developed in Europe.	9:30 – 13:00
Coffee Break	Served from 11:00
Lunch	13:00 – 14:00
Session 15: Discussion of the Examination Answers We will review the answers to the examination and discuss any points that are not sufficiently clear.	14:00 – 14:30

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Session 16: Response to Participant Requests: Discussion of Specific Issues Identified in Session 12 – *Scott Jacobs* and *Dr. Giacomo Luchetta* The instructors will prepare additional materials or presentations to clarify issues identified in the course as particularly important or requiring further discussion by participants, or which the course examination shows as being insufficiently understood by participants.	14:30 – 15:30
Coffee Break	15:30 – 15:45
Session 17. Course Evaluation and Presentation of Certificates	15:45 – 16:15