



2019

# Aarhus Centres Annual Meeting

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# Major problems in conducting the pilot SEA:

Lack or limited availability of disaggregated data at the city level for the major sectors of concern (environmental protection, health, transport, social, industry).;

The resources of the project did not allow to carry out field works or make calculations of the transport intensity on the major highways and central streets to compensate for the lack of consistent official monitoring;

No data was available on the real size and state of the green areas and park, as no records reflecting the actual state of the green areas are kept by local authorities;

There was no assessment report on the achievement of the objectives and goals/decisions of the previous master plan (2008) or description of major problems and causes of not implementation of the planned developments.



The interest from local population and from business community (companies, factories, part of them having the central management) to participate in SEA-triggered consultations was very weak, due to generally low interest in environmental issues and lack of time and resources within the project to conduct an awareness and information campaign, public surveys, arrange small focus groups meetings etc.



Local mass-media (local press, TV and radio, private internet sites, developed for the city), contacted and receiving all materials, were not interested in this process. As a result, there was a low level of participation in the public consultations;



- ▶ Limited understanding of the local / central institutions to the potential of a SEA process to the Planning context in the current socio-economic conditions of the country;
- ▶ There are no strong environmental local NGOs, due to which fact there was no additional support of the process from NGOs. Some of the NGOs (sport, social or agricultural) did not demonstrate interest to the process;
- ▶ The local budget did not have special lines for environmental protection or investments in environmental infrastructure, main funds being provided from the national level, or from external grants or loans;





# Lessons learned:

Local authorities (the mayor and his office) recognised the importance and supported the SEA process, but could not influence all stakeholders or solve all problems, which need significant funding or decision making at Government/Parliament level;

The SEA process benefits from being accompanied with a well structured and funded information and awareness campaign, focused on the major target groups, vulnerable people, gender, etc.;

The SEA would benefit from allocating more time for the joint work of the planning team, SEA team, authorities and local environmental and health institutions, provided that the relevant institutions are ready to actively take part in the planning deliberations.



A Master Plan of the city is a very complex and complicated document (considering the complexity of information conveyed in maps), which makes the related SEA particularly demanding in terms of structuring the SEA process and involvement of experts in urban/territorial planning;

Technical and methodological support from the international SEA consultants (especially with EU experience) was crucial for the strengthening of the capacity of the local team, development of the documents and efficient implementation of the pilot project.

