

EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



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Case examples on Quality Assurance (QA) systems in SEA

Martin Smutny



Croatia

- Advisory Committee has to be established for each SEA procedure
- Planning agency selects the Committee's members (from the list of experts determined by the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection)
- Usually 2 – 3 Committee's meetings are organized
- The Committee is mainly focused on the completeness of the SEA report
- **Only licensed companies can elaborate SEA report**

Croatia

- ☺ QA follows entire SEA process
- ☺ QA can provide valuable inputs to SEA
- ☺ Very demanding
- ☺ Often only formal check, suggesting minor adjustments of the reports, while conclusions and recommendations formulated by SEA towards to plan or programme remain 'out-of-focus'.

Czech Republic

- There must be **licensed expert** involved in preparing the SEA report (usually Team Leader)
- The **SEA Competent Authority can reject scoping and SEA report** if it does not meet legal requirements

Czech Republic

- ☺ QA is 'easy' to perform
- ☺ In reality, consultations with stakeholders represent an important aspect of 'quality control'
- ☹ Having SEA license cannot guarantee good performance
- ☹ SEA Competent Authority focuses mainly on formal aspects (e.g. 'does structure of SEA report follows the chapters stipulated by SEA Act?')

The Netherlands

- The **Independent Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA)** is a key capacity available for a quality review
- For each **advisory report** that the NCEA prepares, a working group is set up, whose members represent those disciplines relevant to the assessment under review.
- The NCEA issues an **advice to the competent authority responsible for the planning decision**, and its advisory reports are made public online

The Netherlands

- ☺ QA provides a very detailed insight on SEA Report as well as it may include consultations with planners or the authority responsible for approving the plan or programme
- ☺ QA focused on whether ‘information on environmental impacts needed for the decision is present’
- ☹ Demanding system (special institution had to be established)
- ☹ QA is carried out only at the end of SEA procedure