

New thinking in capacity development and quality assurance for effective Environmental Assessment

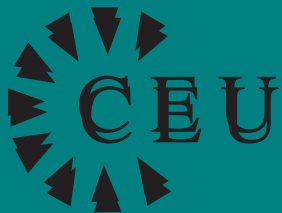
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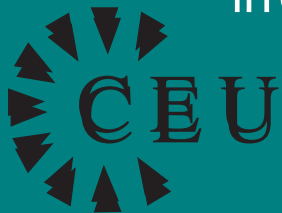
Budapest, Hungary

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Observed successes and failures of EA systems in CEE and EECCA

- ◆ **Successful EA systems** take into account both international knowledge and existing institutions
 - Less effective systems try to rapidly replace traditional arrangements with external models
 - Or preserve existing arrangements with no regard to international experience
- ◆ **Successful EA systems** have broad support from governments, business, academia and civil society, organized in functioning networks
 - Less effective systems rely primarily on bureaucracy and experts
- ◆ **Successful EA systems** are able to reflect and learn from experience as well as adjust to changing circumstances
 - Less effective systems are “static” and, as a result, increasingly irrelevant in the changing world



Lessons for EA capacity development

- ◆ Capacity development should:
 - Strike the balance between domestic and international approaches, models and experiences
 - Extend to non-state actors (businesses, NGOs, etc.)
 - Foster a dialogue and formation of networks among actors in EA systems
 - Be based on capacity building strategies responding to specific needs as perceived by different audiences
- ◆ Capacity for learning and change should be strengthened



From quality control to quality management

Training,
guidance,
data bases,
networking

“Licensing”,
certification,
professional
bodies

Capacities

Actors

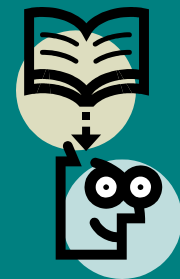


Practice

Process

Quality
Control

Report



Quality control (QC) as a capacity development tool

- ◆ QC means verifying whether certain elements of the EA system meet the relevant expectations
- ◆ QC helps improving the quality of individual EA cases
- ◆ QC strengthens EA practice/system as a whole:
 - Developing common and shared expectations
 - Education and training (“curriculizing” expectations)
 - Identifying regulatory weaknesses, assessing capacity needs



Standardized quality evaluation frameworks are essential

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Conclusions

- ◆ Successful EA systems are “dynamic” and able to reflect, integrated with existing institutions and supported by multi-stakeholder “networks”
- ◆ Capacity development should facilitate such systems by promoting networking and ability for critical learning
- ◆ Quality assurance is a capacity development tool which should be widely and systematically applied, relying on internationally standardized quality evaluation frameworks

◆ More information at

<http://www.ceu.hu/envsci/eianetwork/>

