



# SEA benefits and key procedural steps

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# What is SEA?

Environmental assessment of 'strategic' initiatives = policies, plans, programmes, strategies, actions...

## SEA Protocol

evaluation of the likely environmental, including health, effects, which comprises the determination of the scope of an environmental report and its preparation, the carrying-out of public participation and consultations, and the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the public participation and consultations in a plan or programme

## SEA Directive (2001/42/EC )

the preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision

# Typical / Generic SEA Steps

**0. Screening:** to determine if SEA is required for the specific plan or programme (P/P)

Not all P/Ps automatically require SEA

Approaches to screening:

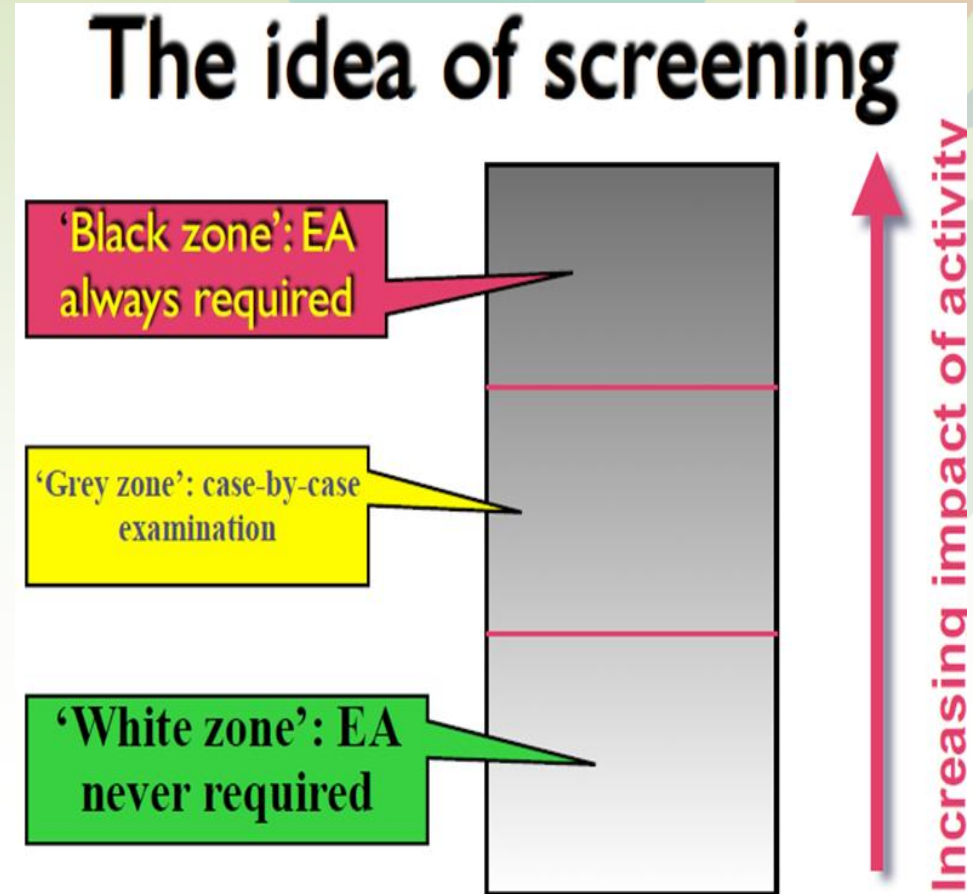
Specified types of P/Ps

Case-by-case review

Combined approach

Exemptions (SEA Protocol and SEA Directive):

P/Ps the sole purpose of which is to serve national defence or civil emergency,  
financial or budget P/Ps



# Typical / Generic SEA Steps

## 1. Scoping / Baseline Analysis

Determination of key issues that should be considered within the SEA process

Analysis of key issues i.e. past evolution, current situation and likely future evolution if the plan or programme is not implemented

2. **Assessment of effects** of the plan or programme on the key issues and development of mitigation measures (including monitoring scheme)

3. **Compilation of the SEA Report** and its submission for consultations with environmental and health authorities and the public

## 4. Consultations

5. **Taking information generated in SEA into due account in planning and decision-making** and explaining decision in publicly accountable manner

# Guiding principles for SEA application

- Undertaken by the authority responsible for P/P
- Applied as early as possible in decision-making process
- Focused on key issues
- Evaluates reasonable range of alternatives
- Provides appropriate opportunities for involvement of key stakeholders & the public
- Carried out with appropriate, cost-effective methods & techniques of analysis

# SEA Benefits

- Provide for high level of environmental protection
- Improve quality of P/P making
- Increase efficiency of decision-making
- Facilitate identification of new development opportunities
- Help prevent costly mistakes
- Strengthen governance
- Facilitate transboundary cooperation

# Summing up on relationship between SEA & Planning

- **Planning** analyzes and proposes development interventions
- **SEA** examines individual outputs of the planning process and it may propose any necessary amendments
- Optimally, **SEA should be carried out in parallel with planning**, when
  - The lead process is the planning process, and
  - SEA fits into the logic and steps of the planning process
- Thus, both processes can be seen as **mutually reinforcing tools** within one robust planning system for more sustainable development

# Costs of SEA

- Costs largely depend on
  - How detailed the PP is and number of its alternatives
  - Data availability
  - Length of the planning process
- **Most SEAs require 70-80 person days** to complete (UK study)
- Czech survey: about 50% of SEAs required about 2 – 10 person days time allocation from the planning authority side (in addition to costs needed for contracting SEA consultants)



# Costs of SEA (cont´d)

- Main costs usually associated with initial applications of SEA when
  - appropriate approaches & tools have to be tested & developed
  - basic data sets need to be compiled
- Subsequent SEAs are less costly
  - build on previous experience
  - may require only standard analytical work & process management
- **Costs for SEA are marginal compared with costs of PP implementation!!!**

# Detailed tasks of the SEA practitioners

- Cooperating with the planning team on defining the scope of the SEA + designing approach to assessments of priority issues (based on data and resources available)
- Managing assessments and providing inputs to the planning process,
- Facilitating consultations on specific issues of interest
- Compiling SEA Report
- Preparing responses to comments obtained, finetuning outcomes of the SEA and recommendations for decision-making

# Key issues to communicate with planning authority before the SEA team mobilization

- Need to specify steps and timeline of the Plan or Program (PP) elaboration
- Define expected inputs by the SEA team (e.g. preliminary feedback on draft PP, facilitation of public consultations)

Need to agree and specify role & inputs by those who prepare the PP:

- Provision or gathering of data
- Feedback on the assessment results
- Optimizing the PP based on the inputs obtained
- Consultations with other relevant authorities and public

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# Key SEA challenges and risks

- ineffective screening
- lack of support from Planning authority
- poor cooperation with planning experts
- ineffective consultation process
- too wide scope of assessment --> poorly focused analysis
- inadequate analytical tools
- implementation and monitoring of SEA results

# SEA Benefits: SEA for Berounka river Watershed Management Plan

- Watershed Management Plan according to EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/ES)
- Owner: Vltava Watershed Authority (state enterprise)
- Content:
  - A) Description of the watershed baseline
  - B) Water use and water balance
  - C) Status and protection of water bodies
  - D) Flood prevention and water regimes
  - E) Estimation of effectiveness of adopted measures
  - F) Economic analysis

# Character of the Plan

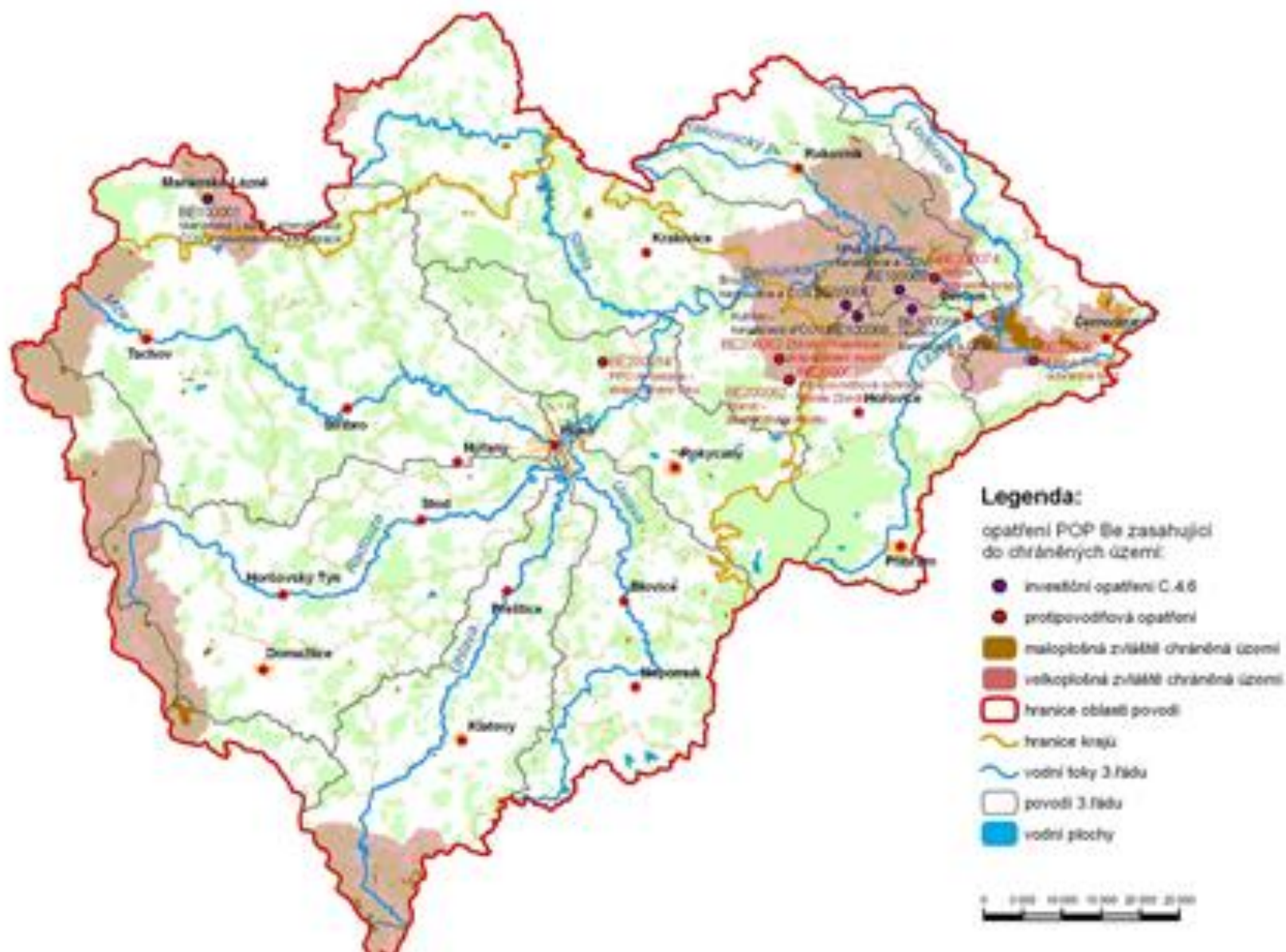
- Extensive analysis of the environmental factors already included in the Plan
- High number of measures of different nature (e.g.):
  - Wastewater treatment facilities
  - Identification and reclamation of old contaminated sites
  - Recultivation and re-naturalization of river localities
  - Flood control measures
  - Reduction of pollution from non-point resources
  - and others...
- Measures both general (policy measures) and specific investment projects
- High number of (institutional) stakeholders

# SEA Approach

- Ex-ante (spring 2008 – summer 2009)
- Identification of potential conflicts with nature protection (spatial analysis)
- Prioritization of old contaminated sites for reclamation
- Policy level recommendations
- Recommendation for water resources management (water for human use monitoring)



## Mapa potenciálních střetů opatření POP Be s maloplošnými a velkoplošnými chráněnými územími





# SEA Benefits

- Identification of potential project level planning conflicts (Natura 2000 sites)
- SEA advised on prioritization for contaminated sites reclamation (including suggestions for institutional framework improvement)
- SEA helped to facilitate multistakeholder dialogue with impacts beyond the planning process
- Identification of potential for improvement in the next Watershed management planning cycle

# Thank you very much!

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# More examples?





# Example: SEA for OP Enterprise and Innovations Czech Republic 2007 – 2013

- **Key actors:**
  - proponent: Ministry of Industry and Trade
  - programming team: internal team within the ministry
  - ex-ante team: external consortium
  - SEA competent authority: Ministry of Environment
- **SEA Team:**
  - consortium of 3 organizations (2 NGOs + consultancy + freelancers)
  - altogether 10 experts (industrial pollution, energy, wastes, biodiversity environmental education, public health, public participation, team leader)
  - approx. 180 man days

# Content of OPEI - strategy

- **Specific objectives**

- To intensify the activity of SMEs
- To increase the competitiveness of enterprises by way of implementing new technologies and innovative activities
- to increase the effectiveness of the use of energy in the industry and the use of renewable and possibly secondary energy sources (except supporting incinerators)
- To encourage cooperation between the industry sector and research and development
- To increase effectiveness of human potential use in industry
- To increase quality of entrepreneurial infrastructure

- **Indicative financial plan**

- total budget 3,578 mil EUR (5,410 mil USD)

# SEA: Environmental objectives (examples)

- To achieve a proportion of renewable energy sources in the gross electricity consumption equal to 8 % by the year 2010, and to increase it further.
- To stabilise reduction of energy demands of GDP creation by 3 % a year, electricity demands by 2 % a year.
- To reduce waste production, including hazardous wastes.
- To increase waste utilisation, with preference for recycling, up to 55 % of all waste produced by the year 2012.
- To protect landscape elements and quality segments of a natural character in built-up areas.
- To reduce transit and freight road transport, especially by supporting environment-friendly forms of transport, including management measures.
- To reduce industrial and transport noise pollution for populations in settlements.



# The SEA impact

- A number of text changes and adjustments of the OPEI project document
- Following principles were incorporated into the OPEI projects selection mechanism:
  - Bonus for projects directly focusing on improvement of the environment
  - Bonus for reduction of material intensity of the production
  - Bonus for reduction of the energy consumption
  - Bonus for reduction of emission and waste volumes
  - Bonus for localization of the project in an old industrial site (instead on green field)
- Within the OPEI component (sub-Program Eko-energie) focusing on support of the renewable energy and energy savings following criteria were adopted:
  - costs of the emissions reduction (CZK/kg CO<sub>2</sub>/ year)
  - Verified total energy savings (electricity/heat)
  - Average real use of installed energy generation capacity of a renewable resource

# Key benefits and problems

- SEA influenced the entire programming document
  - Suggestions (not all) from SEA incorporated into the text of program
  - The proposed system for environmental monitoring and project selection have been accepted by Ministry of Industry
  - SEA (hopefully) changed attitude of Ministry of Industry to environmental assessment and improved understanding of this issue
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- Low public interest
  - Poor communication with ex-ante team
  - Poor communication and support from Ministry of Environment