



Workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Road Map on promoting green economy

21 April 2016
Chisinau, Moldova



SEA application for policy documents: benefits and key procedural steps

Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE Consultant on SEA

What is SEA?

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

SEA Protocol	SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)
<p><u>evaluation</u> of the likely environmental, including health, effects, which comprises the determination of the scope of an environmental report and its preparation, the <u>carrying-out of public participation and consultations</u>, and the <u>taking into account</u> of the environmental report and the results of the public participation and consultations <u>in a plan or programme</u></p>	<p>the <u>preparation of an environmental report</u>, the <u>carrying out of consultations</u>, the <u>taking into account</u> of the environmental report and the results of the consultations <u>in decision-making</u> and the provision of information on the decision</p>

Typical / Generic SEA Steps

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

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

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 CO₂/ 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 changed attitude of Ministry of Industry to environmental assessment and improved understanding of this issue

- Low public interest
- Poor communication with ex-ante team
- Poor communication and support from Ministry of Environment

Example: SEA for Climate change adaptation Policy of the Czech Republic

- Policy level document
- Vast number of measures of different level of detail, mostly very general
- Overall pro-environmental orientation
- SEA focused on
 - Assessing compliance with environmental policy objectives
 - Identifying of potential for negative side-effects of individual measures
 - Formulating recommendations for prioritization of implementation steps

See SEA Report example (in Czech)

Thank you very much!

Michal Musil

michal.musil@integracons.com